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The Pious Flagellator.

Published March 1.st 1783 by J. Fielding. N.o 23 Paternoster Row

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THE

POLITE TRAVELLER:

Part I.

BEING A

MODERN VIEW

OF PART OF

Germany, France, and Italy.

CONTAINING,

A Deſcription of Berlin.
Anecdotes of the King of Pruſſia.
Viſit to Potſdam and Sans-Souci, Palaces of the King of Pruſſia.
Particulars reſpecting the Pruſſian Military Exerciſe and Diſcipline.
Character and perſonal Deſcription of the King of Pruſſia.
Short Account of Vienna.
Anecdotes of two amiable Court Ladies.
Particulars of a Dinner on Mount Calenberg.
Deſcription of a German Hunt.
Character of the Emperor of Germany.
Contraſt of Character between the French and Germans.
Compariſon between Engliſh, French, and German Ladies.
Remarks on French Manners and Opinions.
Short Account of Geneva, its Government, and Inhabitants.
The Genevois Military Feaſt.
Journey to the Glaciers of Savoy.
Account of the Coaſt of Naples.
Particulars reſpecting Meſſina.
Journey along the Coaſt of Sicily.
Viſit to Mount Ætna, &c.

Embelliſhed with an elegant Frontiſpiece.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

PREFACE.

THOUGH cuſtom will not permit us to ſend a new publication into the literary world without a Preface, yet it may with reaſon be conjectured, that but little will be neceſſary to be ſaid in defence of a work, which carries with it two ſuch intereſting views as inſtruction and amuſement.

Here are, indeed, none of thoſe lofty flights of imagination, thoſe fancied joys and unexperienced woes, with which romances in general abound, and which are ſo apt to catch the fancy of the young and thoughtleſs,

leſs, and lead them into the paths of Error and Folly; but they will here peruſe the faithful record of Nature, the wonders of the age, and the amazing productions of art. Without the danger and fatigue of long journies and remote voyages, the reader will here be conducted through ſome of the politeſt courts of Europe, and catch inſtruction from their manners and cuſtoms; he will be conducted from the fertile baſe to the frigid ſummit of burning Ætna, and explore all the wonders of that fiery region, and view the amazing objects beneath him; he will traverſe the dreary plains of Africa, and ramble over the wilds of America; the remoteſt parts of the ſouthern hemiſphere, which have been diſcovered with ſo much labour, peril, and fatigue, will all lie open to his view, perhaps, in the hour of eaſe and leiſure, by the fire-ſide in winter, or in the ſhady retreat in ſummer.

The

The obligations the world owe to our travellers and navigators is great indeed; for, without the aſſiſtance of their diſcoveries, we ſhould know nothing of remote regions. Confined within the bounds of the age and country we live in, contracted within the narrow compaſs of our particular knowledge and reflections, we always continue in a ſort of infancy, which leaves us ſtrangers to the reſt of the world, and in a deep ignorance of all that has paſt before us or around us.

What is the track of land any one perſon can inhabit, or run over upon the face of the earth or ocean, but an imperceptible point, with reſpect to thoſe vaſt regions which have been explored by our numerous travellers and navigators, who have ſucceeded one another for a long ſeries of ages! Yet it is to that imperceptible point our knowledge is limited, if we do not call to our aſſiſtance books of this kind,

kind, which lay all ages and countries open to our view, make us acquainted with the manners and cuſtoms of nations before unknown to us, and teach us, by example, wiſdom, fortitude, and prudence.

There is neither age nor condition but may derive inſtruction or amuſement, perhaps both, from ſtudies of this nature. As the youthful mind enlarges, it naturally ſighs after novelty; and what novelty can be more pleaſing to it, than a faithful deſcription of the wonders of thoſe countries he may have perhaps heard mentioned, but never read of? In the evening of our lives, when the fire and gaiety of youth have forſaken us, the peruſal of works of this kind affords us the moſt rational amuſement. In that period of reflection, we ruminate with philoſophical pleaſure on the buſtle of this world; we ſee cities and towns, from ſmall beginnings, riſing into ſplendour,

dour, opulence, and grandeur; while others, once great and noble, are ſinking into decay, and dwindling into obſcurity. From hence we draw ſolid reflections on the vanity and inſtability of all human concerns.

In order to conduct this little work on the moſt liberal plan, each volume will be ſo printed as to make it a diſtinct work of itſelf; and any deſcription of places, begun in either of the volumes, will be finiſhed in the ſame, without being continued in another. Hence thoſe who may purchaſe either of the volumes, will not be under the neceſſity of purchaſing the reſt, or leaving the work incomplete.

Add to this, the work is reduced to a ſize that will take up but little room in the pocket; and yet, being printed on a ſmall but elegant type, contains more than many of three times its bulk.

From

From these considerations we are led to hope, that the POLITE TRAVELLER will meet with, and deserve, the patronage of the discerning public.

CON-

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THE

THE POLITE TRAVELLER.

A Description of BERLIN, *with anecdotes of the* KING *of* PRUSSIA.

THE ſtreets of Berlin, one of the moſt beautiful cities in Europe, are built in a very regular manner, and of a commodious breadth. The principal ſtreet is reckoned two Engliſh miles and a half, or a French league, in length; and others, which go off at right angles from that, are a mile or a mile and a half long.

It is the opinion of ſome people, that Berlin covers as much ground as Paris; but certain it is, that it increaſes much nearer in ſize than in number of inhabitants. There are but few magnificent buildings in this city, the moſt of them being plain neat houſes, built of a fine white freeſtone, generally one, or at moſt two ſtories high. Here, as well as

at Potſdam, the furniſhing within does not correſpond with the appearance of the outſide, and the ſoldiers are quartered on the ground floors looking into the ſtreets. The principal edifices are the king's palace, and that of prince Henry, both being very magnificent. The arſenal, which is a noble ſtructure, is built in the front of a ſquare, and uſually contains arms for two hundred thouſand men.

The moſt elegant place of worſhip in this city is the new Roman Catholic church. The king thinks, that the ſmalleſt controul over men's conſciences is unjuſt, and therefore he allows the free exerciſe of every religion over all his dominions. He even has the delicacy not to influence them by his example, and offends no religion, by giving a preference to any one in particular. After obſerving the inſcriptions and ornaments of the palaces and other public buildings, the new method of decorating the churches, the number of Mercuries, Apollos, Minervas, and Cupids, that are to be met with in this country, a ſtranger might be led to ſuſpect, that the Chriſtian religion was exploded from the Pruſſian dominions, and that the ancient honours were reſtored to old Jupiter and his family.

In the corner of one of the ſquares is a ſtatue of marſhal Schwerin, who is repreſented holding the enſign, with which he advanced at the famous battle of Prague, where, perceiving his troops giving way, he ſeized the enſign from the officer's hand, whoſe duty it was

was to carry it, and marched towards the enemy, calling out, "Let all but cowards follow me." The troops, aſhamed to abandon their general, charged once more, and turned the fortune of the day; but the brave old marſhal was killed, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

The Pruſſian officers have very little of the French manners and turn of thinking; but the ladies of the court of Berlin, have more of the air of French women than thoſe of moſt courts in Europe. The king very ſeldom appears at the queen's court, or at any place where women form a part of the aſſembly. When he inclines to unbend his mind from the buſineſs of ſtate, his amuſements are of a nature, in which women can take no ſhare. I once ſaid to a lady of this court, that it was a pity the king did not love women. The lady replied, "Conſidering the time of his life, we could diſpenſe with his love, but it is hard that he cannot endure us."

Whatever the ladies may loſe by this humour of the king, it is pretty well made amends by the attention paid to them by the men in general. Many of the married women particularly have avowed admirers, who attend them on all occaſions, are invited with them to all entertainments, ſit next them at table, and whom the maſter or miſtreſs of the feaſt takes care to place in the ſame party with them at cards. When a lady is not provided with an attendant of this kind, her

huſband, as well as herſelf, is generally a little out of countenance, till ſome gentleman relieves them from their embarraſſments.

A certain gentleman of this place experienced a misfortune of a very ſerious nature. The company, inſtead of expreſſing concern about the unfortunate gentleman or his wife, (for he was a married man) ſympathized, in the tendereſt manner, with another lady, between whom and this gentleman the moſt intimate connection was thought to ſubſiſt. They ſaid ſhe was one of the worthieſt women in the world, and of ſuch delicate feelings, that her health might be injured by the impreſſion the gentleman's misfortunes would make upon her mind. Being ſurpriſed that no mention was made of his wife all this time, I aſked if ſhe might not alſo be in ſome meaſure affected by her huſband's diſaſter. I was anſwered, that ſhe was otherways engaged, and that any thing that could happen to her huſband, was of little or no importance to her. I then enquired, if ſhe and her huſband lived on bad terms; and I was informed, that, on the contrary, they were on the beſt footing in the world, for that he was much attached to another woman, (the very lady they ſo much lamented) and that his wife was entirely devoted to another man. So the account between them being perfectly balanced, they lived in a ſtate of mutual neglect, and engroſſed with ſeparate paſſions, free from all domeſtic debates.

It

It is the cuſtom of this country, that when both parties are willing, and when there are no children, a divorce may be obtained with very little trouble or expence. We were frequently in companies, where a lady, her preſent, and former huſbands were at table, and all parties behaved in the moſt polite and friendly manner to each other. I have heard of one gentleman, who, having lived in a ſtate of domeſtic jarring with his wife, got her perſuaded to join with him to obtain a divorce. This matter was ſoon ſettled, and he then married another woman, with whom he was violently in love, and expected, as uſual, eternal happineſs. After marriage, however, this paſſion cooled rather ſooner than common, and, within a few months, he became the profeſſed admirer of his firſt wife. He now ſaw a thouſand charms in her perſon and converſation, which had entirely eſcaped his notice while the bonds of wedlock ſubſiſted. He alſo diſcovered, that certain peculiarities in her manner, which he had formerly thought exceedingly aukward, were in reality graceful. He expreſſed his remorſe for his former blindneſs in the moſt pathetic terms. The lady was ſoftened, and at length gave the moſt perfect marks of forgiveneſs. It was univerſally thought, that he thus contrived to live in adultery with the very woman to whom he had been lawfully married. Such is the caprice of mankind!

It is indeed true, that jealouſy is held here in equal contempt and deteſtation, and ſcandal

is very little known. People here ſeem ſo fully employed with their own private affairs, that they ſeldom trouble their heads about the buſineſs of their neighbours. If in the courſe of converſation, an intimacy of a particular kind is hinted at between people of different ſexes, it is mentioned accidentally as a matter of no importance, and without the ſmalleſt blame or ill-natured reflection on either of the parties. One reaſon of this may be, that, as we were aſſured, there were ſcarce ſuch a thing, in his Pruſſian majeſty's dominions, as an old maid.

When we firſt arrived at Berlin, nothing ſurpriſed us ſo much as the freedom with which the people ſpoke of the meaſures of government, and the conduct of the king. The moſt tickliſh topics were here diſcuſſed with as little ceremony as in a London coffee-houſe; and the ſame freedom appears in the bookſellers ſhops, where literary productions of all kinds are openly ſold, and ſome of them ſuch as attack the moſt conſpicuous characters with all the bitterneſs of ſatire. A government, ſupported by an army of an hundred and eighty thouſand men, may ſafely diſregard the criticiſms of a few ſpeculative politicians, and the pen of the ſatiriſt. While the king retains the power of diſpoſing of the lives and properties of his ſubjects as his will ſhall direct, he allows them the moſt perfect freedom to amuſe themſelves, as they pleaſe, with jokes or remarks on his conduct.

This

This monarch poſſeſſes a mind ſuperior to that goſſiping diſpoſition, by which the deſpicable race of whiſperers and retailers of ſcandal thrive at ſome courts. Convinced that the ſame perfidy which can betray a real converſation, may invent a falſe one, he liſtens to no little malicious tales of what has paſſed in private companies, or during the hours of convivial mirth. Any perſon, who ſhould attempt to repeat anecdotes of this kind to him, would be driven from his preſence with diſgrace. He treats with equal contempt all anonymous letters, and every kind of injurious information, when the aſſertions are not openly ſupported by the informer.

So perfectly devoid of ſuſpicion and perſonal fear is this great prince, that he reſides at Sans-Souci without any guard to protect him. An ordinary ſerjeant, or corporal only, attends there in the day-time, to carry occaſional orders to the garriſon at Potſdam, to which place he often returns in the evening. In the houſe in which the king ſleeps every night, there are not above ten or a dozen perſons, including the ſervants. When we recollect, that Sans-Souci is a ſolitary manſion, about half a league from Potſdam, where all the guards are ſhut up, and therefore could be of no manner of uſe, in caſe of any attempt on the king's perſon during the night; when we conſider that he, who lies thus defenceleſs and expoſed, is a deſpotic monarch, who governs by the dictates of his own will and underſtanding, without minding the ill-humour

or

or diſcontent of any man, and who, no doubt, has many inveterate enemies, we muſt confeſs, that all theſe circumſtances argue great magnanimity. His majeſty herein imitates Julius Cæſar, who, being adviſed by his friends, not to walk in the ſtreets of Rome unarmed, and without guards to attend him, amidſt a haughty people he had enſlaved, made this anſwer; "He who lives in fear of death dies every hour, I will die but once."

In the Pruſſian dominions are none of thoſe poſts, which enrich individuals at the expence of the public; places ſuited to the abilities and the luxuries of the great, where the ſalary is large, becauſe the application and talents requiſite are ſmall. If thoſe, who hold the moſt lucrative places in this court, can ſupport a becoming dignity by the emoluments of their office, and lay up a moderate proviſion for their families, it is the utmoſt they ever expect or hope for.

While we remained at Potſdam, an adventure of an affecting nature happened in the king's family. His principal valet-de-chambre was a man conſiderably reſpected. Having conſtant opportunities of being about the king's perſon, and having enjoyed his approbation for ſeveral years, people of the firſt rank paid him ſome degree of attention. He was liked by his acquaintances, as we were told, on account of his perſonal qualities, and had accumulated a little fortune by the perquiſites of his office. He had built a neat houſe, and kept a coach for his miſtreſs. It

was

was this man's misfortune to diſoblige the king, probably by ſome neglect of duty, or it might poſſibly be ſomething worſe; but we could never hear exactly how this had happened. However, while the princeſſes were at the New Palace, the king had blamed him in very ſharp terms; and not being ſatisfied with the excuſes the man made, told him, that, as ſoon as the company were gone, he ſhould talk to him properly.

As ſoon as the princeſſes were gone to Berlin, the king returned to his old palace at Sans-Souci. The day after, he ſent for an officer of the guards, and ordered him to conduct this man to Potſdam, and place him in the quality of a drummer in the firſt regiment of foot-guards. The poor man endeavoured to pacify his maſter by prayers and entreaties, but without ſucceſs. He then ſaid to the officer, that there were ſome things in his room, which he wiſhed to put in order before he went, and deſired that he might be allowed a little time for that purpoſe. The officer readily aſſented, and as ſoon as this deſperate man had entered his own apartments, he ſeized a piſtol, which he had prepared from the time the king had threatened him, and immediately ſhot himſelf through the head. The report of the piſtol alarmed the king and the officer, who both went into the room, and found the poor creature expiring.

Though the king certainly had no idea that his valet would ſhoot himſelf, and though, it is moſt probable, he would not have

have allowed him to remain long in the ſituation, to which, in a fit of reſentment, he had condemned him, yet there is ſomething exceedingly harſh in daſhing a man at once from a ſituation of eaſe and reſpect, into a ſphere of life ſo mean and humble. Such an order was more becoming the fury of an intemperate deſpot, than the dignity of ſo great and wiſe a monarch as the king of Pruſſia. We converſed with a perſon who had been at Sans-Souci immediately after this melancholy event, and he informed us, that the king ſeemed very much affected. If he felt it as he ought, he was an object of compaſſion; if he did not, he was ſtill more ſo, as nothing can be a greater misfortune to a man than to want humanity.

Before I cloſe this account of the city of Berlin, I muſt mention a very ſingular inſtance, the circumſtances of which I relate, not ſo much with a deſign to illuſtrate the character or ſentiments of the vulgar of this place in particular, as to furniſh my readers with a curious fact in the hiſtory of human nature in general.

We accompanied a friend to ſee a man executed for the murder of a child. The motives for this horrid deed were much more extraordinary than the action itſelf. He had accompanied ſome of his companions to the houſe of a fellow, who aſſumed the character of a fortune-teller; and having diſobliged him, by expreſſing a contempt of his art, the fellow propheſied, out of revenge, that this man

man would die on a ſcaffold. This ſeemed to make little impreſſion at the time, but afterwards recurred often to this unhappy creature's memory, and became every day more troubleſome to his imagination. At length, the idea haunted his mind ſo inceſſantly, that he was rendered perfectly miſerable, and could no longer endure his exiſtence.

He would have put himſelf to death with his own hands, had he not been deterred by the notion, that God Almighty never forgives ſuicide; though, upon repentance, he is very ready to pardon every other crime. He reſolved therefore to commit murder, that he might be deprived of life by the hands of juſtice; and mingling a ſentiment of benevolence with the cruelty of his intention, he reflected, that if he murdered a grown perſon he might poſſibly ſend a ſoul to hell. To avoid this, he determined to murder a child, who could not have committed any ſin that deſerved damnation, but dying in innocence would go immediately to heaven. In conſequence of theſe ideas, he actually murdered an infant of his maſter's, for whom he had always ſhewn an uncommon degree of fondneſs. Such was the ſtrange account this infatuated creature gave on his trial, and thus the random prophecy proved, as in many other caſes, the cauſe of its own completion.

He was executed about two miles from Berlin. As ſoon as he aſcended the ſcaffold, he took off his coat and waiſtcoat; his ſhirt was rolled down below his ſhoulders, and his night-cap

night-cap pulled over his eyes. He was placed on his knees, and the executioner, with the ſingle ſtroke of a broad ſword, ſevered his head from his body. It was the firſt time this executioner had performed his office. There were two others of the ſame trade on the ſcaffold, who exhibited an inſtance of inſenſibility more ſhocking than the execution. While the man's head rolled on the ſcaffold, and the arteries of the trunk poured out their blood, thoſe men, with the gayeſt air imaginable, ſhook their brother by the hand, wiſhed him joy, and clapped him on the back, congratulating him on the dexterity and effectual manner in which he had performed his office.

A viſit to POTSDAM *and* SANS-SOUCI, *palaces of the king of* PRUSSIA.

AS ſoon as we arrived at Potſdam, a town of Germany, in the circle of Upper Saxony, where is a palace belonging to the king of Pruſſia, we waited on count Finkinſtein, and deſired to know when we might have the honour of being preſented to his Pruſſian majeſty; requeſting alſo, that we might be permitted to attend the reviews. We were not a little ſurpriſed when this miniſter told us, that we muſt write a letter to the king, informing him of the nature of our requeſt,

requeſt, and that we ſhould certainly receive an anſwer the next day. It appeared to us an odd matter, to write to ſo great prince on a matter of ſo little importance; but this, it ſeemed, was the eſtabliſhed rule, and there was no departing from it.

We accordingly wrote, and the next morning one of the ſervants of the court called on us at the inn. He delivered to us a ſealed letter, ſigned by the king, importing, that as the court would ſoon be at Berlin, the miniſter in waiting there would let us know when we might be preſented; and that, as to the reviews, we were welcome to attend them at any time.

The prince and princeſs of Pruſſia reſide almoſt conſtantly at Potſdam, and we were preſented to them in the evening. The prince and all the officers had been employed every morning in preparing for the reviews; and the prince's ſon, a child of ſix or ſeven years old, was preſent on foot with his tutor, and unattended with any officer or ſervant. They mingled without any mark of diſtinction among the other ſpectators. We mentioned our ſurpriſe at this to his tutor, and he thus anſwered us: "In France, the dauphin, at this age, would be carried to the review in a coach, with a troop of muſqueteers to attend him; but here, the king and prince are equally deſirous, that their ſucceſſor ſhould be brought up in a hardy manner, and without any ſtrong impreſſion of his own importance. Sentiments of that kind will come ſoon enough,

in ſpite of all the pains that can be taken to exclude them."

The houſes in Potſdam are built of a fine white freeſtone, almoſt all of them new, and nearly of the ſame height. The ſtreets are regular and well paved, and there are ſome very magnificent public buildings: ſo that this town has every requiſite to form an agreeable place, if by that be meant the ſtreets, ſtone walls, and external appearance; but it is a poor place indeed, if we confine ourſelves to the finiſhing, furniture, and conveniencies within the houſes.

It is but by ſlow degrees that towns are generally formed, and as the inhabitants increaſe in number. Houſes are built larger and more commodious as men increaſe in riches, and as their ideas of conveniency enlarge with their wealth. Here the matter is reverſed: the houſes are reared, in the firſt place, in hopes that their fair outſides, like the nymphs of Circe, will allure travellers, and attract inhabitants. Hitherto their power of attraction has not been ſtrong; for few towns are worſe inhabited than Potſdam. We were not a little ſurpriſed, while walking through the ſtreets, to ſee buff-belts, breeches, and waiſtcoats, hanging to dry from the genteeleſt looking houſes, till we were informed, that each houſekeeper has two or more ſoldiers quartered in his houſe, and their apartments are, for the moſt part, on the firſt floor, with windows to the ſtreet; which, we were told, was alſo the caſe at Berlin, the king chooſing

that

that his ſoldiers ſhould be quartered with the citizens, rather than in barracks.

The caſtle of Potſdam is the king's palace, and is a very noble building, with magnificent gardens adjoining; though it is ſomething ſingular, that the ſtudy is by far the fineſt apartment in the palace; the ornaments are of maſſy ſilver; the writing-deſk, the embelliſhments of the table, and the accommodations for the books, are all in the modern ſtile, and very elegant.

We were aſked by the perſon who attended us, if we had any deſire to ſee the king's wardrobe; and, as we doubted not but it muſt be very elegant, when we conſidered it was that of ſo great a monarch, we expreſſed our deſire of beholding ſuch a ſight: but our expectation was much diſappointed, when on being conducted to the chamber where the king's clothes were depoſited, we found it contained only two blue coats faced with red, the lining of one of which was a little torn; two yellow waiſtcoats, a good deal ſoiled with Spaniſh ſnuff; three pair of yellow breeches, and a ſuit of blue velvet embroidered with ſilver, which his majeſty wore only on very particular occaſions, when the buſineſs and parade of ſtate required it.

It was natural for us at firſt ſight to imagine, that the man had got a few of the king's old clothes, and kept them here to impoſe upon ſtrangers; but, after the niceſt enquiry, we were aſſured, that what we have here mentioned, with two ſuits of uniform, which he

had at Sans-Souci, formed the entire wardrobe of the great king of Pruſſia. Our attendant ſaid, that he had never known it more complete. As for the velvet ſuit, it was about ten years of age, and ſtill enjoyed all the vigour of youth. Indeed, if the moths ſpared it as much as his majeſty had done, it might laſt the age of Methuſelah.

In the bedchamber where the late king died, at the lower part of the window which looks into the garden, four panes had been removed, and a picce of glaſs equal in ſize to all the four, ſupplied their place. We were informed, that his late majeſty's ſupreme delight through life had been to ſee his troops exerciſe, and that he had retained this paſſion till his laſt breath. When he was confined to his room by his laſt illneſs, he uſed to ſit and view them through the window, which had been framed in this manner, that he might enjoy theſe dying contemplations with the greater conveniency. Becoming gradually weaker by the increaſing diſtemper, he was obliged to lie on a couch all the day. When at any time he was uncommonly languid, they raiſed his head to the window, and a ſight of the men under arms was perceived to operate like a cordial, and revive his ſpirits. By frequent repetition, however, this cordial loſt its effects. His eyes became dim; when his head was raiſed, he could no longer perceive the ſoldiers, and he expired.

We viſited Sans-Souci, which is at a ſmall diſtance from Potſdam. The king lives conſtantly

ſtantly at the old palace, except when ſome people of very great diſtinction come to reſide with him for ſome days. He then receives them at the new palace, and remains there himſelf during their viſit.

In the gallery of this palace is a large collection of paintings, ſome of them originals, and highly eſteemed. Some people, who paſs for connoiſſeurs, aſſert, that the king has not a juſt taſte in painting, which appears by his purchaſing a great many indifferent pictures. However true this may be, certain it is, that his majeſty does not pay the leaſt reſpect to the opinion of theſe connoiſſeurs; but buys, admires, and avows his admiration of ſuch pieces as appear excellent in his own eyes, without regarding what they or others may think. It has no weight with him, that the piece is ſaid to be by Raphael, Guido, or Corregio. If he ſee no beauty in it, he ſays ſo, and, without ceremony, prefers the works of a modern or obſcure painter.

The king of Pruſſia, a few years after the late war on the continent, began to build this new palace of Sans-Souci, which is now completely furniſhed, and is certainly a very noble and ſplendid work. The offices are at a conſiderable diſtance, and are joined to the body of the palace by a double colonade, which has a very grand effect. The front of the palace ſeems rather crowded, by the great number of ſtatues which are intended to ornament it. This building has a cupola, terminated by a large crown, ſupported by the

three Graces. On the ground floor, in the middle, is a large hall, whoſe floor, ſides, and roof, are all of marble. This room can be agreeable only when the weather is exceſſively hot; it is called the Grotto, and the ornaments correſpond with that name. The principal apartments are adorned with rich furniture and paintings, all very ſhowy, and many people think them gaudy.

Intereſting particulars reſpecting the PRUSSIAN MILITARY EXERCISES *and* DISCIPLINE.

ON our arrival at Berlin, nothing was to be ſeen in the ſtreets but ſoldiers parading, and officers hurrying backwards and forwards. The town reſembled more the cantonment of a great army, than the capital of a kingdom in the time of profound peace. The court itſelf reſembled the levee of a general in the fields, and none were ſeen out of military uniforms, except the foreign miniſters, ſome women, and a few ſtrangers.

Count Reuſe, the king's chamberlain, named each perſon to his majeſty as he approached. The king's countenance and manner are exceedingly animated; he ſaid a few words to every perſon who was preſented, and ſpoke to all his officers in an eaſy ſtile, and with a kind of gay affability. On their part, they

they appeared before their maſter with an erect military boldneſs, free from that fawning addreſs, which alone makes its way to favour in ſome European courts.

The king remained three days at Berlin before the reviews began, and paſſed ſome hours every morning in the park, where four or five thouſand men were ordered daily, not to be exerciſed, but ſimply that the king might examine the ſtate of each corps in particular, and it is almoſt incredible with what accuracy and minute attention he examined them. The whole number reviewed was about thirty-eight thouſand, conſiſting of the garriſon of Berlin, and troops from ſome of the adjacent towns and villages. This army was in the field three mornings ſucceſſively, and the operations were different each day. The plan of the laſt was nearly as follows.

At break of day, about eight thouſand men marched out of Berlin, under the command of a general officer, and took poſſeſſion of a village, ſituated on a riſing ground, at the diſtance of two or three miles. About an hour after, the king himſelf joined the army, which was aſſembled without the gates. He divided it into three columns, two of which were commanded by general officers, and himſelf led the third. The whole marched by three different routs towards the village, where the former detachment had now taken poſt. The review conſiſted in the attack and defence of this village.

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The enemy in the village cannonaded the army as it advanced, but the men could not be ſuppoſed to ſuffer much, as the leader of each column advanced with caution, taking ſuch circuits as very little expoſed their troops. At length the three columns met on a large plain near the village, but protected from the batteries by a riſing ground, and here the king formed the army into two lines. While this was tranſacting, they were perfectly ſecure; but they could not advance towards the village otherwiſe than by going over the ſwell in the ground, and being expoſed to all the cannon of the enemy. This was, therefore, to be performed with as much expedition as good order would admit of. The right wing of the army made the attack, and, as ſoon as the ſignal was given, all the drums and fifes ſtruck up at once. The ſoldiers advanced with a rapid pace, and a numerous train of large field-pieces, placed at proper intervals, advanced with equal velocity, and kept in a line with the front rank. The rapidity with which they were charged and diſcharged, as they advanced, was truly aſtoniſhing. When the line came within a proper diſtance of the village, the ſoldiers began a fire with their muſquets; and, in the mean time, there was a furious cannonade and diſcharge of ſmall ſhot from the village. The king was between the advancing lines and the village during the attack; and when they had got very near the hedges, a new battery opened from the village. The king gave a ſignal,

ſignal, and the firſt line broke, fell into an artificial confuſion, and fell backwards towards the ſecond line, which opened at ſeveral places, and cloſed again the moment the retiring line had paſſed through. The ſecond line then moved to the attack, in the ſame manner the former had done, and this alſo appeared to be repulſed. A retreat was then ſounded, and the whole wing began to retire. A body of cavalry then appeared from the village, and were advancing to charge the retreating army, but were themſelves charged and driven back by the cavalry of the right wing of the enemy. A body of huſſars alſo purſued from the village, and harraſſed the retreating army. They were ſometimes repulſed by the ſoldiers, who turned and fired on them, and ſometimes by detached parties of cavalry, which drove them back again.

It was about five in the morning when theſe various operations began, and were not finiſhed till noon, when the troops returned to Berlin. It is hardly poſſible for words to convey an adequate idea of the perfect manner in which theſe evolutions were performed. We had never before ſeen ſo great a body together, and had no idea, that it was poſſible for cavalry to charge at full gallop, and keep their ranks and diſtances with as much exactneſs as though they were not in motion. The cuiraſſiers are the flower of the Pruſſian army. They are dreſſed in buff coats, and wear very heavy iron breaſt-plates, which cover all the fore part of the body, and have been tried by muſquet-

muſquet-ſhot before they be delivered to the ſoldiers.

After the reviews were over, there was a concert and ſupper, in the evening, at prince Henry's palace; but the king himſelf ſeldom appears at feſtivals. All his hours, not employed in buſineſs, he ſpends in reading, or in the ſociety of a few people whom he eſteems. Prince Henry's palace is one of the moſt magnificent buildings in Berlin, and he lives in a moſt ſumptuous manner; he keeps a numerous eſtabliſhment of ſervants, moſtly handſome young men, very richly dreſſed, and his entertainments are remarkably ſplendid and brilliant.

The ſight of a review, ſuch as we have juſt deſcribed, is undoubtedly one of the fineſt ſhows that can be exhibited; but when a ſpectator of ſenſibility reflects on the means by which theſe poor fellows are brought to this wonderful degree of accuracy, he will feel his humanity leſſening the ſplendour of this exhibition: the Pruſſian dicipline, on a general review, is beautiful; but it is ſhocking in detail. When the young ruſtic is brought to the regiment, he is at firſt treated with a degree of gentleneſs; he is inſtructed by words only how to walk, to hold up his head, and to carry his firelock; and he is not puniſhed, though he ſhould not ſucceed in his earlieſt attempts, as they allow his natural aukwardneſs and timidity to wear off by degrees. They ſeem cautious of confounding him at the beginning, or driving him to deſpair, and take

take care not to pour all the terrors of their diſcipline upon his aſtoniſhed ſenſes at once. When he has been a little familiariſed to his new ſtate, he is taught the exerciſe of the firelock firſt alone, and afterwards with two or three of his companions. This is not entruſted to a corporal or ſerjeant, but is the duty of a ſubaltern officer.

Every morning may be ſeen, in the park at Berlin, the lieutenants of the different regiments exerciſing, with the greateſt aſſiduity, ſometimes a ſingle man, at other times three or four together; and now, if the young recruit ſhews neglect or remiſſneſs, his attention is rouſed by the officer's cane, which is applied with augmenting energy, till he has acquired the full command of his firelock. He is taught ſteadineſs under arms, and the immobility of a ſtatue; he is informed, that all his members are to move only at the word of command, and not at his own pleaſure; that ſpeaking, coughing, ſneezing, are all unpardonable crimes; and, when the poor lad is accompliſhed to their mind, they give him to underſtand, that now it is perfectly known what he can do, and therefore the ſmalleſt deficiency will be puniſhed with rigour. Although he ſhould deſtine every moment of his time, and all his attention, to cleaning his arms, taking care of his clothes, and practiſing the manual exerciſe, it is but barely poſſible for him to eſcape puniſhment; and if his captain happen to be of a cruel or capricious diſpo-

diſpoſition, the puniſhment of the ill-fated ſoldier muſt be inevitable.

Such is the life of a common ſoldier in the Pruſſian ſervice; and as to the officers, though they are not indeed ſubjected to corporal puniſhment, yet they are obliged to pay as unremitting an attention to their duty as the men. The ſubalterns are almoſt conſtantly on guard, or exerciſing the recruits; the captain knows that he will be blamed by his colonel, and can expect no promotion, if his company be not as perfect as others; the colonel entirely loſes the king's favour, if his regiment ſhould fail in any particular; and the general is anſwerable for the diſcipline of his brigade, or garriſon, under his immediate command; the king will not be ſatisfied with the general's report on that ſubject, but will examine every thing himſelf: ſo that from his majeſty, down to the common centinel, every individual is alert. As the king, who is the chief ſpring of the whole, never relaxes, the faculties of every ſubordinate perſon are kept in conſtant exertion. The conſequence of which is, that the Pruſſian army is the beſt diſciplined, and the readieſt for ſervice on a minute's warning, of any now in the world, or perhaps that ever was in it. Other monarchs have attempted to carry diſcipline to the ſame degree of perfection, and have begun this plan with aſtoniſhing eagerneſs; but a little time and new objects have blunted their keenneſs, and divided their attention. They

have

have then delegated the execution to a commander in chief, he to another of inferior rank, and thus a certain degree of relaxation having once taken place, ſoon pervades the whole ſyſtem; but the perſeverance of the king of Pruſſia is without example, and is perhaps his moſt ſhining talent.

No condition in life can be more active, and at the ſame time have leſs variety in it, than that of a Pruſſian officer in the time of peace, as he is continually employed in the ſame occupation, and continually occupied in the ſame place. There is no rotation of the troops, as in the Britiſh ſervice; the regiments which were placed in Berlin, Magdeburg, Schweidnitz, and the other garriſons at the concluſion of the war, remain there ſtill. It is dreaded, that if they were occaſionally moved from one garriſon to another, the foreigners in the ſervice, who are exceedingly prone to deſertion, might then find opportunities, which according to the preſent plan, they cannot; for however deſirous a Pruſſian ſoldier may be to deſert, the thing is almoſt impoſſible. The moment a man is miſſing, a certain number of cannons are fired, which anounce the deſertion to the whole country. The peaſants have a conſiderable reward for ſeizing a deſerter, and are liable to ſevere penalties, if they harbour or aid him in making his eſcape, and parties from the garriſon are ſent after him in every direction. As none of the ſoldiers are allowed to go out of the walls of the town, it requires great ad-

dreſs to get over this firſt difficulty; and when they have been ſo far fortunate, many chances remain againſt their eſcaping through the Pruſſian dominions; and when they arrive ſafe in any of the neighbouring ſtates, their condition is not bettered, as they will there probably be obliged to enliſt again as ſoldiers. So that, on the whole, however unhappy they may be, it is abſurd to attempt deſertion in any other way than by killing themſelves; which method, we were told, begins much to prevail among the Pruſſian ſoldiery.

The leading idea of the Pruſſian exerciſe is to reduce men, in many reſpects, to the nature of machines; that they may have no will of their own, but be actuated ſolely by that of their officers; that they may have ſuch a ſuperlative dread of thoſe officers as annihilates all fear of the enemy; and that they may move forwards when ordered, without deeper reaſoning, or more concern, than the firelocks they carry along with them. Conſidering the length to which this ſyſtem is carried, it were to be wiſhed that it could be carried ſtill further; and that thoſe unhappy men, while they retained the faculties of hearing and obeying orders, could be deprived of the feeling of their miſeries.

The miſerable ſtate of ſlavery in Aſia, or that to which people of civil profeſſions in the moſt deſpotic countries are ſubject, is freedom in compariſon of this kind of military ſlavery. The former are not continually under the eye of their tyrants, but for long intervals of time may

may enjoy life without reſtraint, and as their taſte dictates; but all the foreign ſoldiers in this ſervice, as well as thoſe of the natives, who are ſuſpected of any intention to deſert, and conſequently never allowed furloughs, are always under the eye of ſomebody, who has the power, and too often the inclination, to controul every action of their bodies, and every deſire of their hearts. Since ſuch a number of men all over Europe are deemed to this ſtate of conſtraint, it is much to be lamented, that the doom ſhould fall on the uſeful and induſtrious peaſantry, who, when uncontrouled by cruel and abſurd policy, paſs their days in cheerfulneſs, taſting every real pleaſure without the nauſea or the ſtings of remorſe. Were many of the uſeleſs, wealthy, and luxurious, tranſlated into this ſtate, they would be perhaps much happier. They would not ſigh over the evils of indolence, and would be harraſſed by the caprice of others inſtead of their own. Finally, a cannon-ball would afford them an eaſier death than a tedious fit of the gout.

CHARACTER *and* PERSONAL DESCRIPTION *of the* KING *of* PRUSSIA.

MY readers muſt not expect, that I ſhall preſume to draw a complete portrait of this monarch, as that muſt be the work of much abler literary painters, who have ſeen him in a more familiar manner, and whoſe colours can give an expreſſion worthy of the original. I ſhall only attempt to give a faithful ſketch of ſuch features as I was able to eize during the tranſient views I myſelf had, or which I have learnt from thoſe, who have paſſed with him many of the hours, which he dedicates to free converſation, and the pleaſures of the table.

With reſpect to the perſon of his Pruſſian majeſty, he is below the middle ſize, well made, and remarkably active for his time of life. Exerciſe and a laborious life have made him hardy; for his conſtitution originally ſeems to have been none of the ſtrongeſt. He has fine blue eyes, his look announces ſpirit and penetration, and, in my opinion, his countenance is upon the whole agreeable. Some, who have ſeen him, are of a different opinion; and all, who judge from his portraits only, muſt be ſo; for although I have ſeen many which have a little reſemblance of him, and ſome which have a great deal, yet none of them do him juſtice. His features acquire a wonderful degree of animation while

he

he converſes, and this muſt be entirely loſt upon canvas. He ſtoops conſiderably, and inclines his head almoſt conſtantly to one ſide. His tone of voice is the cleareſt and moſt agreeable in converſation I ever heard. He ſpeaks a great deal, yet thoſe that hear him, regret that he does not ſpeak a great deal more. His obſervations are always lively, generally juſt, and few men poſſeſs the talent of repartee in a greater perfection than this monarch.

His dreſs conſiſts of a blue coat lined and faced with red, and yellow waiſtcoat and breeches, which he ſeldom varies. He always wears boots, with huſſar tops, which fall in wrinkles about his ancles, and are oftener of a dark brown than of a black colour. His hat would be thought too large even in England at this day, though it is of the ſize commonly uſed by the Pruſſian officers of cavalry. He generally wears one of the large ſide corners over his forehead and eyes, and the front cock at one ſide. He wears his hair cued behind, and dreſſed with a ſingle buckle on each ſide. From this being very careleſsly put up, and unequally powdered, we may naturally conclude, that the friſeur has not been permitted to be very tedious in his buſineſs.

The king uſually carries in his pocket a large gold ſnuff-box, the lid of which is ornamented with diamonds, and he takes an immoderate quantity of Spaniſh ſnuff, the marks of which very often appear on his waiſtcoat and breeches. Theſe are alſo liable to be

ſoiled by the paws of two or three Italian greyhounds, which he often careſſes. He dreſſes as ſoon as he gets up in the morning, which buſineſs takes up but a few minutes, and ſerves for the whole day. His hours, from four to five in the morning till ten at night, are all deſtined methodically to particular occupations, either of buſineſs or amuſement, and he ſeldom ſuffers them to be interrupted.

Every kind of buſineſs with the king is tranſacted by letter, and every petition or propoſal muſt be made in this form. This rule is adhered to ſo invariably, as I have been aſſured, that if any of his generals wiſhed to promote a cadet to the rank of an enſign, he would not venture to make his propoſal in any other manner, even though he had daily opportunities of converſing with his majeſty. The meaneſt of his ſubjects may apply to him in writing, and be ſure of an anſwer. His firſt buſineſs every morning is to peruſe the papers addreſſed to him; and a ſingle word written with his pencil in the margin, indicates the anſwer to be given, which is afterwards made out in form by his ſecretaries. This method affords the king time to deliberate on the juſtice and propriety of every demand, and prevents the poſſibility of being ſurpriſed into a promiſe improper to perform.

Noon is the preciſe hour of his dining; but of late, he allows more time than formerly, and it is generally after three before he leaves the

the company. Eight or nine of his officers are commonly invited to dine with him. At table the king likes that every one ſhould appear to be on a footing, and that the converſation ſhould be carried on with perfect freedom; though this, by the way, is impoſſible. That confidential and unreſtrained flow of the heart, which takes place in a ſociety of equals, is a pleaſure which a deſpotic prince can never taſte. However, his majeſty deſires that it may be ſo, and every one does his beſt to pleaſe.

The king, being in a gay humour at one of theſe meetings, ſaid to the abbé Baſtiani, "When you ſhall obtain the tiara, which your exemplary piety muſt one day procure you, how will you receive me when I arrive at Rome to pay my duty to your holineſs?" "I will immediately give orders, (replied Baſtiani with great readineſs) that they admit the black eagle to enter, that he may ſhadow me with his wings, but protect me from his beak." Nobody ſays more lively things in company than the king himſelf, and many of his *bons mots* are repeated at Potſdam. I ſhall only mention one, which is at once an inſtance of his wit and greatneſs of mind, in rendering juſtice to the merit of a man, who had cauſed him more vexation in the field of battle than perhaps any other man alive. When the king of Pruſſia had a perſonal meeting ſome years ſince with the emperor, they always dined together, a certain number of their principal officers being with him. One day,

general

general Laudohn was going to place himſelf at the bottom of the table, when the king, who was at the head, called to him, "Pray, Monſieur Laudohn, place yourſelf here; for I would infinitely rather have you *on my ſide* than *oppoſite* to me."

Though all the cordiality of friendſhip, and the full charms of unreſerved ſociety, cannot ſubſiſt where the fortune of every other individual depends on the will of one of the company, yet the king endeavours to put every one as much at his eaſe as the nature of the caſe will admit; and I have heard of his bearing ſome very ſevere retorts with perfect good humour. He has too much wit himſelf, and is too fond of it in others, to repel its attack with any other weapons than thoſe which it furniſhes.

A very ſtriking inſtance of the freedom which may be uſed with him occurred previous to a review; and what makes it the more remarkable, it happened, not during the gaiety of the table, but on the very ſcene of military ſtrictneſs. Two regiments were in the field, one of which was commanded by a general who is fond of company, and paſſes more of his time in the ſociety of ſtrangers, and with the foreign miniſters, than moſt others in the Pruſſian ſervice. Something, it is probable, had chagrined the king that morning. While the regiment advanced in a line, he ſaid to the general, who ſtood near him, "Sir, your regiment is out of line; and that is not ſurpriſing, ſince you play ſo much

much at cards!" The general called out inſtantly with a loud voice to the regiment, "Halt!" and they immediately ſtopped; then, turning to the king, he ſaid, "I have nothing to aſk, Sire, reſpecting my cards; but be ſo gracious as to ſee if that regiment be not in a line." The regiment was in a very ſtraight line, and the king moved away without ſpeaking, ſeemingly diſpleaſed, not with the general, but with himſelf. This manly officer never had reaſon afterwards to believe, that the king had been offended with his honeſt freedom.

It is abſolutely impoſſible for any man to enjoy an office in the king of Pruſſia's ſervice without performing the duty of it. He is himſelf active and aſſiduous, and makes it a point that all his miniſters and ſervants ſhall be ſo to; but to thoſe who know their buſineſs, and perform it exactly, he is an eaſy and equitable maſter. His favourites, of whatever kind, were never able to acquire influence over him in any thing regarding buſineſs. Nobody ever knew better how to diſcriminate the merit of thoſe who ſerve him in the important departments of ſtate, from theirs who contribute to his amuſements. A man, who performs the duties of his office with alertneſs and fidelity, has nothing to apprehend from the king's being fond of the company and converſation of his enemy. Let the one be regaled at the king's table every day, while the other never receives a ſingle invitation, yet the real merit of both is known; and if his

his adverſary ſhould ever try to turn the king's favour to the purpoſes of private hatred or malice, the attempt will be repelled with diſdain, and the evil he intended to another will fall on himſelf. It would be happy for ſociety, if every one, in an humbler ſphere of life than that of royalty, were to imitate ſo noble an example.

A ſhort account of VIENNA, *with anecdotes of two amiable* COURT LADIES.

THE city of Vienna, properly ſo called, is not of a very great extent; nor can it be enlarged, being limited by a ſtrong fortification. This town is very populous, and is thought to contain about ſeventy thouſand inhabitants. The ſtreets in general are narrow, and the houſes built high. Some of the public buildings and palaces are magnificent; but they appear externally to no great advantage, on account of the narrowneſs of the ſtreets. The chief are the Imperial Palace, the Library, and Muſeum, the palaces of the princes Lichtenſtein, Eugene, and ſome others; but, as a mere deſcription of buildings is unintereſting, I ſhall leave them further unnoticed.

On our arrival at Vienna, the poſtillion drove directly to the cuſtom-houſe, where our baggage

baggage underwent a very ſevere ſcrutiny, which neither fair words nor money can mitigate. As nothing contraband was found among our baggage, it was all carried directly to our lodgings, except our books, which were retained to be examined at leiſure, and were not reſtored to us till ſome time after. The empreſs has given ſtrict orders, that no books of impiety, lewdneſs, or immorality, ſhall be allowed to enter her dominions, or be circulated among her ſubjects; and Mahomet himſelf dare as ſoon appear publicly at Vienna as any ſuch publications.

There is no great danger that Vienna will ever again be ſubjected to the inconveniencies of a ſiege; yet, in caſe ſuch a thing ſhould happen, a meaſure has been taken, which will prevent the neceſſity of deſtroying the ſuburbs. No houſes without the walls are allowed to be built nearer to the glacis than ſix hundred yards; ſo that there is a circular field of ſix hundred paces broad all round the town, which, excluſive of the advantages above-mentioned, has a very beautiful and ſalutary effect. Beyond the plain, the ſuburbs are built. They form a very extenſive and magnificent town of an irregular circular form, containing within its boſom a ſpacious field, which has for its center the original town of Vienna. Theſe magnificent ſuburbs, and the town together, are ſaid to contain above three hundred thouſand inhabitants; yet the former are not near ſo populous, in proportion to their ſize, as the town, many houſes in

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the ſuburbs having extenſive gardens belonging to them, and many familes, who during the winter live within the fortifications, paſs the ſummer months in the ſuburbs.

We had the honour to be preſented to the emperor, about a week after our arrival at Vienna. Count Degenfelt accompanied us to the palace between nine and ten in the morning, and after walking a few minutes in an adjoining room, we were conducted into that where the emperor was alone. His manner is affable, eaſy, and gracefully plain. The ſame forenoon we drove to Schombrun, a palace about a league from Vienna, where the empreſs reſides at preſent, and we had the honour of being prefented there likewiſe.

The Imperial family are uncommonly well-looking, and have a very ſtrong reſemblance to each other. They are all of a fair complexion, with large blue eyes; and ſome of them, particularly the arch-duke, are diſtinguiſhed by the thick lip ſo long remarked in the Auſtrian family. The beautiful queen of France is the handſomeſt of this family, only becauſe ſhe is the youngeſt; and ſome people think, that her ſiſter the princeſs Albert has the advantage. One of the unmarried archducheſſes, who formerly was thought the moſt beautiful, has ſuffered conſiderably by the ſmall-pox. A lady of the court told me, that, as ſoon as this princeſs underſtood what her diſeaſe was, ſhe called for a looking glaſs, and with unaffected pleaſantry took leave of thoſe features, ſhe had often heard

heard praiſed, and which ſhe believed would be greatly changed before ſhe ſhould ſee them again. The diminution which the ſmall-pox has made in the beauty of this princeſs has not, in the ſmalleſt degree, impaired her good-humour, or the eſſential part of her character, which has invariably remained unimpeached.

Here I cannot help drawing a ſimile. When the king of Pruſſia ſaw his army defeated at Cunerſdorf, after he had written to the queen that he was ſure of victory; or when any of thoſe monarchs of whom hiſtory gives examples, were daſhed from their thrones to a ſtate of dependance or captivity, undoubtedly it required great ſtrength of mind to bear ſuch cruel reverſes of fortune—but, perhaps, it requires more in a woman, whoſe beauty is admired by one half of the human race, and envied by the other, to ſupport its loſs with equanimity in all the pride of youth. If thoſe veteran beauties, who never had any thing but their faces to give them importance, whom we ſee ſtill withering on the ſtalk, and repining that they cannot retain the bloom of May in the froſt of December, had met with ſuch an accident, it would probably have killed them at once, and ſaved them many years of deſpiſed exiſtence.

I never paſſed my time more agreeably than when I was at Vienna. There is not ſuch a conſtant round of amuſements as to fill up a perſon's time without any plan or occupation of his own; and yet there is enough to ſa-

tisfy any mind not perfectly vacant and dependent on external objects.

I generally paſſed the evening at the counteſs Thune's, where there was no play of any kind, and the ſociety there literally formed a converſation. My readers will probably be at a loſs to imagine, how a mixed company, ſometimes pretty numerous, could paſs ſeveral hours every evening merely in converſing, eſpecially as the converſation was not always ſplit into parties, but was very often general. They muſt ſuſpect there were many melancholy pauſes, which, after a certain length, were prolonged, from the reluctance of people to be the firſt breakers of a very ſolemn ſilence; or they may think, that ſometimes there would be ſo many tongues moving at once, that nothing could be heard diſtinctly; and they may poſſibly figure to themſelves the lady of the houſe, at other times endeavouring, by formal obſervations on the weather or politics, to keep alive a converſation, which was juſt expiring in all the yawnings of death. But nothing of this kind ever happened; and as this is certainly a matter of uſeful knowledge to the polite world, the conduct of the counteſs Thune may not be unworthy of their imitation, or at leaſt the recital of it may claim a momentary peruſal.

The counteſs has the art of entertaining a company, and of making them entertain one another, more than any perſon I ever knew. With a great deal of wit, and a perfect knowledge

ledge of the world, ſhe poſſeſſes the moſt diſintereſted heart. She is the firſt to diſcover the good quality of her friends, and the laſt who ſees their foibles. One of her greateſt pleaſures is to remove prejudices from among her acquaintances, and to promote friendſhips. She has an amazing flow of ſpirits, which ſhe manages with ſuch addreſs as to delight the gay, without diſpleaſing the reſerved. I never knew any perſon have ſuch a number of friends, and ſo much generous friendſhip to beſtow on each. She is daily making new ones, without ſuffering her regard for the old ones to diminiſh. She has formed a little ſyſtem of happineſs at her own houſe, herſelf being the center of attraction and union. Nobody is under the neceſſity of remaining a moment in this ſociety after being tired, as they may retire when they pleaſe; and no more notice is taken of the entries or exits of any perſon who has been once received, than of a fly's coming in or going out of the room. There is not the ſhadow of reſtraint. If you go every night, you are always treated with equal kindneſs; and, if you ſtay away for a month, you are received on your return with the ſame chearfulneſs as if you had been there every evening. Such is the character, and ſuch the happy diſpoſitions, of this amiable counteſs.

Particulars of a DINNER *on mount* CALENBERG, *and deſcription of a* GERMAN HUNT.

HAVING received an invitation from Monſ. de Breteuil to dine on the top of mount Calenberg, a very high mountain in the neighbourhood of Vienna, we accordingly ſet out for that purpoſe. Common coaches or chariots cannot be dragged up; but, having driven to the bottom, we found chaiſes of a particular conſtruction calculated for ſuch expeditions. Theſe had been ordered by the ambaſſador for the accommodation of the company, and in them we were carried to the ſummit, where there is a convent of monks, from which two landſcapes of very oppoſite natures appear: the one conſiſts of a ſeries of wild mountains, and the other of the town, ſuburbs, and environs of Vienna, with the various branches of the Danube flowing through a rich country boundleſs to the view.

When dinner-time arrived, the table was covered in a field near the convent, under the ſhade of ſome trees. Every delicacy of the ſeaſon was ſerved up, and Madam de Matignon, a very beautiful and ſprightly lady, daughter of Monſ. de Breteuil, did the honours. Some of the fineſt women of Vienna, her companions, were of the company, and the whole entertainment was conducted with equal taſte and gaiety. During the deſert,

ſert, ſome of the fathers came, and preſented the company with baſkets of fruit and ſallad from their gardens. The ambaſſador invited them to ſit, and the ladies pledged them in tokay. Monſ. de Breteuil had previouſly obtained permiſſion for the ladies to enter the convent, which they accordingly did, as ſoon as they aroſe from table, attended by all the company. It will eaſily be believed, that the appearance of ſo many handſome women would be particularly intereſting to a company, which had never before beheld a female within their walls. This, indeed, was ſufficiently evident, in ſpite of the gravity and mortified looks of the fathers.

One of the ladies, who was of a gay diſpoſition, and who, out of pleaſantry, had put on a relgious hablt, laid hold of a little ſcourge which hung at one of the father's belts, and deſired he would make her a preſent of it; for, (ſaid the lady with a well-affected gravity) I wiſh to uſe it when I return home, as I have been a great ſinner. The father with great gallantry, begged ſhe would ſpare her own fair ſkin, aſſuring her, that he would give himſelf a hearty flogging, on her account, that very evening; and to prove how much he was in earneſt, fell directly on his knees before a little altar, and began to whip his own ſhoulders with great earneſtneſs, declaring, that when the ladies ſhould retire, he would lay it with the ſame violence on his naked body; for he was determined ſhe ſhould be as free from ſin as ſhe was on the day of her

birth. This ſo melted the heart of the lady, that ſhe begged the father might take no more of her faults upon his ſhoulders. She aſſured him, that her ſlips had been many, and that ſhe was convinced, what he had already done would clear her as completely as if he ſhould whip himſelf to the bone.

In all this there is ſomething ſo ludicrous, that my readers may naturally ſuſpect, that the repreſentation I have given proceeds from invention rather than memory; but I aſſure them, that the ſcene actually paſſed nearly as deſcribed. To prevent further miſchief, I put the ſcourge, which the zealous father had made uſe of, into my pocket.

We left the mount, returned to Vienna, and in the evening called at the counteſs Walſtein's, and ſoon after the emperor came there. Somebody had already mentioned to him the pious gallantry of the father at the top of mount Calenberg. He aſked for a ſight of the whip, which he underſtood I had brought away. I had it ſtill in my pocket, and immediately ſhewed it him. He laughed very heartily at the warmth of the father's zeal, which he ſuppoſed had been increaſed by the ambaſſador's tokay.

I had often heard of the unceremonious and eaſy manner, in which this great prince lives with his ſubjects, and report has not exaggerated on this head. The counteſs Walſtein had no expectations of his viſiting her that evening; and when the ſervant named the emperor before he entered, I ſtarted up and

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was going to retire. The counteſs deſired me to remain; for nothing was more diſagreeable to the emperor, than that any company ſhould be diſturbed on his entering. The ladies kept their ſeats, ſome of them knotting all the time he remained. The men continued ſtanding while he ſtood, and when he was ſeated, moſt part of them ſat down alſo. This monarch converſes with all the eaſe and affability of a private gentleman, and gradually ſeduces others to talk with the ſame eaſe to him. He is ſurely much happier in this noble condeſcenſion, and muſt acquire a more perfect knowledge of mankind, than if he kept himſelf aloof from his ſubjects, continually wrapt up in his own importance and the imperial fur.

We paſſed ſome little time at prince Lichtenſtein's houſe at Falberg in Auſtria. This is one of the firſt families in this country, whether conſidered in point of antiquity, wealth, or dignity. Falberg is a fine old manſion, about forty miles from Vienna. The apartments are large, convenient, and furniſhed in the magnificent ſtyle which prevails in the noblemen's houſes of this country.

A few days after our arrival at this ſeat, we ſet out for another villa belonging to this prince, at ſix miles diſtance, where he intended to give the company the amuſement of hunting. We accordingly ſet out in three coaches, accompanied by a great retinue on horſeback.

As the day was far advanced when we arrived, I imagined the hunting would immediately begin; but in this country every thing is done with method and good order, and it was judged proper to dine in the firſt place. This in due time being concluded, I thought the men would have proceeded directly to the ſcene of action, leaving the ladies till their return; but here I found myſelf again miſtaken, as the ladies were to aſſiſt in the whole of this expedition. As there was a neceſſity to traverſe a large wood, into which coaches could not enter, vehicles of a more commodious conſtruction were prepared. Theſe carriages are of the form of benches, with ſtuffed ſeats, upon which ſix or eight people may place themſelves one behind another. They are drawn by four horſes, and ſlide over the ground like a ſledge, paſſing along paths and trackleſs ways, over which no wheel-carriages could be drawn. After being conveyed in this manner acroſs the wood, and a conſiderable way beyond it, we came to a very large open field, in which there were ſeveral little circular incloſures of trees and underwood, at wide intervals from each other.

This hunting had hitherto been attended with very little fatigue; for we had been carried the whole way in coaches, or on the ſledges, which are ſtill eaſier than any coach. In ſhort, we had been perfectly paſſive ſince breakfaſt, except during the time of dinner; but

but when we arrived at this large plain, I was informed, that the hunting would commence within a ſhort time. I then expected we ſhould have ſome violent exerciſe after ſo much inactivity, and began to fear that the ladies might be over-fatigued, when, lo! the prince's ſervants began to arrange ſome portable chairs at a ſmall diſtance from one of the thickets above-mentioned. The princeſs, counteſs, and the reſt of the company, took their places; and, when every body was ſeated, they aſſured me, that the hunting was juſt going to begin.

My curioſity was now excited in a very uncommon degree, and I was filled with impatience to ſee the iſſue of a hunting, which had been conducted in a ſtyle ſo different from any idea I had of that diverſion. While I ſat loſt in conjecture, I perceived, at a great diſtance, a long line of people moving towards the wood, near which the company was ſeated. As they walked along, they gradually formed the ſegment of a circle, whoſe center was this wood. I underſtood that theſe were peaſants, with their wives and children, who, walking forward in this manner, rouſe the game, which naturally take ſhelter in the thicket of trees and buſhes. As ſoon as this happened, the peaſants ruſhed in at the ſide oppoſite to that where our company had taken poſt, beat out the game, and then the maſſacre commenced.

The company was each provided with a fuſil, and many more were at hand loaded for

for immediate uſe. The ſervants were employed in charging as faſt as the pieces were fired off; ſo that an uninterrupted ſhooting was kept up, as long as the game continued flying or running out of the wood. The prince hardly ever miſſed, and killed above thirty partridges, a few pheaſants, and three hares.

I was a good deal ſurpriſed, at the beginning of this ſcene, to ſee a ſervant hand a fuſil to the princeſs, who with great coolneſs, and without riſing from her ſeat, took aim at a partridge, which immediately fell to the ground. With the ſame eaſe ſhe killed ten or twelve partridges and pheaſants, at about double the number of ſhoots. The execution done by the reſt of the company was by no means conſiderable. Though I had not heard of it before, I now underſtood, that ſhooting is not an uncommon amuſement with the German ladies; and it is probable, that the attention of the gentlemen to the delicacy of the fair-ſex, has induced the hardy Germans to make this diverſion as little fatiguing as poſſible.

We afterwards walked with the company to other little encloſures of planting, from whence ſome game were driven out, and killed as before. Nothing could ſurpaſs the politeneſs and magnificence with which the company were entertained during the whole of their ſtay.

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CHARACTER *of the preſent* EMPEROR *of* GERMANY.

THE emperor is of a fair complexion, well made, and of a middle ſize. He very much reſembles his ſiſter, the queen of France, which is ſaying a great deal in favour of his looks. Till I ſaw ſomething of his uſual behaviour, I did not think it poſſible for a perſon in ſuch an elevated ſituation, to put every one with whom he converſed on ſo eaſy a footing. His manners are affable, obliging, and perfectly free from the reſerved and lofty deportment aſſumed by ſome on account of high birth. Whoever has the honour to be in company with him, ſo far from being checked by ſuch deſpicable pride, had need to be on his guard, not to adopt ſuch a degree of familiarity as, whatever the condeſcenſion of the one might permit, would be highly improper in the other to uſe.

Regularity marks every ſtep of his life; he is moderate in his pleaſures, ſteady in his plans, and diligent in his buſineſs. He is fond of his army, and wiſhes that the ſoldiers ſhould have every comfort and neceſſary conſiſtent with their ſituation. He is certainly an œconomiſt, and laviſhes very little money on uſeleſs pomp, miſtreſſes, or favourites; and it is, perhaps, on no better foundation than this, that his enemies accuſe him of avarice. I cannot help conſidering œconomy as one of the

the moſt uſeful qualities in a prince. Liberality, even when puſhed to an imprudent length, may, in a private perſon, proceed from a kind of greatneſs of mind, becauſe his fortune is in every ſenſe his own, and he can injure nobody but himſelf by laviſhing it away; he knows that when it be gone, nobody will reimburſe him for his extravagance; he ſeems, therefore, to have taken the reſolution to ſubmit to the inconveniency of future poverty, rather than renounce the preſent happineſs of acting with a magnificent liberality, and beſtowing on others more than he can afford. But this is not the caſe with a prince. What he ſquanders is not his own, but the public money. He knows that his pomp and ſplendour will be kept up, and that his ſubjects, not he, are to feel the inconveniencies of his prodigality. When I hear, therefore, that a king has given great ſums of money to any particular perſon, where the national intereſt is not concerned, generoſity is a very improper word for ſuch act. The virtue of generoſity conſiſts in a man's depriving himſelf of ſomething for the ſake of another. There can be no generoſity in giving to John what James muſt replace the next moment. What is called generoſity in kings, very often conſiſts in beſtowing that money on the idle part of their ſubjects which they have ſqueezed from the induſtrious. I have heard a parcel of fiddlers and opera-dancers praiſe a prince for his noble and generous behaviour to them, while men near his perſon, of uſeful talents

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and real worth, were diſtreſſed for bread. No ſuch generoſity as this belongs to the emperor of Germany.

His uſual dreſs (the only one indeed in which I ever ſaw him, except at the feaſt of the Knights of St. Stephen) is a plain uniform of white, faced with red. When he goes to Luxenberg, Schonbrun, and other places near Vienna, he generally drives two horſes in an open chaiſe, with a ſervant behind, and no other attendant whatever. He very ſeldom allows the guard to turn out as he paſſes through the gate. Nobody ever had a ſtronger diſpoſition to judicious enquiry, and he is fond of converſing with ingenious people. When he hears of any perſon, of whatever rank or country, being diſtinguiſhed for any particular talent, he is eager to converſe with him, and turns the converſation to the ſubject on which that perſon is thought to excel, drawing from him all the uſeful information he can. He ſeems to be of opinion, that the vanity and ignorance of many princes are frequently owing to the forms in which they are entrenched, and to their being deprived of the advantages which the reſt of mankind enjoy from a free compariſon and exchange of ſentiment. He is convinced, that unleſs a king can contrive to live in ſome ſocieties on a footing of equality, and can weigh his own merit, without throwing his guards and pomp into the ſcale, it will be difficult for him to know either the world or himſelf.

One evening at the counteſs Walſtein's, the converſation leading that way, the emperor enumerated ſome remarkable and ludicrious inſtances of the inconveniencies of etiquette, which had occured at a certain court. One perſon preſent hinted at the effectual means his majeſty had taken to baniſh every inconveniency of that kind from the court of Vienna. To which he replied, "It would be hard, indeed, if, becauſe I have the ill-fortune to be an emperor, I ſhould be deprived of the pleaſures of ſocial life, which are ſo much to my taſte. All the grimace and parade, to which people in my ſituation are accuſtomed from their cradle, have not made me ſo vain, as to imagine that I am, in any eſſential quality, ſuperior to other men; and if I had any tendency to ſuch an opinion, the ſureſt way to get rid of it is the method I take, of mixing in ſociety, where I have daily occaſions of finding myſelf inferior in talents to thoſe I meet with. Conſcious of this, it would afford me no enjoyment to aſſume airs of a ſuperiority which I feel does not exiſt. I endeavour therefore to pleaſe, and to be pleaſed; and as much as the inconveniency of my ſituation will permit, to enjoy the bleſſings of ſociety like other men; convinced, that the man who is ſecluded from thoſe, and raiſes himſelf above friendſhip, is alſo raiſed above happineſs, and deprived the means of acquiring uſeful knowlege." This kind of language is not uncommon with poor philo-

philoſophers; but I imagine it is rarely held by princes, and the inferences to be drawn from it more rarely put in practice.

A ſhort time after this converſation, there was an exhibition of fireworks on the Prater, which is a large park, planted with wood, and ſurrounded by the Danube, over which is a wooden bridge. No carriages being allowed to paſs, the company leave their coaches at one end, and walk. There is a narrow path railed off on one ſide of the bridge. Many people very injudiciouſly took this path, to which there is an eaſy entrance at one end, but the exit is difficult at the other; for only one perſon can get out at a time. The path therefore was very ſoon choaked up; the unfortunate paſſenger crept on at a ſnail's pace, and in the moſt ſtraitened and diſagreeable manner imaginable; whilſt thoſe who kept the wide path in the middle of the bridge, like the fortunate and wealthy in their journey through life, moved along at their eaſe, totally regardleſs of the wretched circumſtances of their fellow-travellers. Some few of the priſoners in the narrow paſſage, who were of a ſmall ſize, crawled under the rail, and got into the broad walk in the middle; but all who were tall, and of a larger make, were obliged to remain, and ſubmit to their fate. An Engliſhman, who had been at the counteſs Walſtein's when the emperor expreſſed himſelf on the inconveniencies of dignified greatneſs, was of this party; he was a very tall and ſtout man, and had unfor-

tunately taken the narrow path. The emperor as he paſſed, ſeeing that thoſe of a ſmall ſize eaſily extricated themſelves, while the Engliſhman remained fixed in a very awkward ſituation, called out, "Ah, Sir! I was right when I told you how inconvenient it is to be *too great*; and at preſent I am ſure you are of my opinion."

Some people, who have heard of the emperor's uncommon affability, and of his total contempt of pomp and parade, with which the bulk of mankind are ſo much enamoured, have aſſerted, that the whole is affectation; but if the whole tenor of any perſon's words and actions is to be conſidered as affectation, I do not know by what means we are to get at the bottom of his real character. Yet, people who have a violent taſte for any particular thing, are extremely ready to believe, that thoſe who have not the ſame taſte are affected.

Contraſt of character between the FRENCH *and* GERMANS, *illuſtrated by their poſtillions; with a compariſon between the* ENGLISH, FRENCH, *and* GERMAN *ladies.*

THE contraſt of characters between the French and Germans is ſtrongly illuſtrated in the different behaviour of the poſtillions of the two countries. A French poſtillion is either laughing, or fretting, or ſinging, or ſwearing, all the time he is on the road. If a hill or a bad road oblige him to go ſlow, he will of a ſudden fall a cracking his whip above his head for a quarter of an hour together, without rhyme or reaſon; for he knows the horſes cannot go a bit faſter, and he does not intend they ſhould. All this noiſe and emotion therefore means nothing, and proceeds entirely from that abhorrence of quiet, which every Frenchman imbibes with his mother's milk.

On the contrary, the German poſtillion drives four horſes with all poſſible tranquillity. He neither ſings, nor frets, nor laughs; he only ſmokes. When he comes near a narrow defile, he ſounds his trumpet, to prevent any carriage from entering at the other end till he has got through. If you call to him to go faſter, he will turn about, look you in the face, take his pipe from his mouth, and ſay,

"Yaw, mynheer, yaw, yaw," and then proceed exactly in the ſame pace as before. He is no way affected whether the road be good or bad, whether it rains, or ſhines, or ſnows; and he ſeems to be totally regardleſs of the people whom he drives, and equally callous to their reproach or applauſe. He has one object, of which he never loſes ſight, which is, to conduct your chaiſe and the contents from one poſt to another, in the manner he thinks beſt for himſelf and the horſes; and unleſs his pipe go out (in which caſe he ſtrikes his flint and rekindles it) he ſeems not to have another idea during the whole journey.

Now I am ſpeaking of the contraſt between the men of thoſe two nations, it may not be impertinent to draw a parallel between the French, German, and Engliſh ladies, in which I hope, I ſhall not offend the latter.

French women have more expreſſion in their countenance than the German ladies; but the latter have the advantage in the fairneſs of their ſkin, and the bloom of their complexion. They have a greater reſemblance to Engliſh women than to French; yet they differ conſiderably from them both. I do not know how to give an idea of the various ſhades of expreſſion, which, if I miſtake not, I can diſtinguiſh in the features of the ſex in theſe three countries.

A handſome French woman, beſides the eaſe of her manner, has commonly a look of great vivacity and chearfulneſs. She appears willing

willing to be acquainted with you, and ſeems to expect that you ſhould addreſs her.

The manner of an Engliſh woman is not ſo devoid of reſtraint; and a ſtranger, eſpecially if he be a foreigner, may obſerve a look, which borders on diſdain, in her countenance. Even among the loveliest, ſomething of a ſullen air often appears. While their beauty allures, this in ſome degree checks that freedom of addreſs which you might uſe to the French woman, and intereſts your vanity more, by giving the idea of the difficulties you have to conquer.

A German beauty, without the ſmart air of the one, or the reſerve of the other, has generally a more plain look than either.

The reader, however ſhould be acquainted, that the author drew this parallel while he was far from the ſight of his native females, and while ſurrounded by German beauties.

Intereſting REMARKS *on* FRENCH *manners and opinions.*

POLITENESS and good manners may be traced at Paris, though in different degrees, through every rank, from the greateſt of the nobility to the loweſt mechanic. This forms a more remarkable and diſtinguiſhing feature in the French national character, than the

the vivacity, impetuoſity, and fickleneſs, for which the ancient as well as the modern inhabitants of this country have been noted.

It is a very remarkable circumſtance, that politeneſs, which in every other country is confined to people of a certain rank in life, ſhould here pervade every ſituation and profeſſion. The man in power is courteous to his dependant, the proſperous to the unfortunate, and the very beggar who ſolicits charity does it with an air of gentility; and, if his requeſt be not granted, he is ſure, at leaſt, that it will be refuſed with an air of humanity, untinctured with harſhneſs or inſult. A ſtranger quite new and unverſed in their language, whoſe accent muſt be uncouth and ridiculous in the ears of a Frenchman, and who can ſcarcely open his mouth without making a blunder in grammar or idiom, is heard with the moſt ſerious attention, and never laughed at, even when he utters the oddeſt ſoleciſm or equivocal expreſſion. "I am afraid, (ſaid I to a French gentleman) the phraſe which I juſt now uſed is not French." "Sir, (replied he) that expreſſion is not French, but I perfectly underſtand what you mean, which is ſufficient."

The French do not forget the laws of good breeding, even where the moſt daring deviation from faſhion is made in the important article of dreſs. When a perſon appear in the public walks, in clothes made againſt every law of the mode, upon which the French are ſaid to lay ſuch ſtreſs, they do not gaze or ſneer at

at him; but allow him firſt to paſs, as it were, unobſerved, and do not till then turn round to indulge the curioſity, which his uncommon figure may have excited. In walking the ſtreets of Paris, I have often remarked this inſtance of delicacy in the loweſt of the vulgar, or rather of the common people; for there are really very few of the natives of Paris who can be called vulgar.

There can be no rule without an exception, reſpecting all general remarks on the manners and character of any nation. I have heard of inſtances of the military treating poſtillions and inn-keepers with injuſtice, and the ſeigneur or intendant oppreſſing the peaſant. Examples of the abuſe of power, and the inſolence of office, are to be met with every where. If they be tolerated, the fault muſt lie in the police.

However, an Engliſhman, of whatever rank in life he may be, muſt ſee with indignation, that every thing in France is arranged for the accommodation of the rich and the powerful, and that little or no regard is paid to the comfort of citizens of an inferior ſtation. This appears in a thouſand inſtances, and ſtrikes the eye immediately on entering Paris. The regular and effectual manner in which the city of London is lighted at night, and the raiſed pavements on the ſides of every ſtreet, for the ſecurity and conveniency of foot paſſengers, ſeem to indicate, that the body of the people, as well as the rich and great, are reckoned as of ſome importance in the

the eye of government. Whereas Paris is poorly and partially lighted; and, except on the Pont Neuf and Pont Royal, and the keys between them, no footways are made for the accommodation and ſafety of thoſe who cannot afford carriages. They muſt therefore grope their way as well as they can, and ſtalk behind pillars, or run into ſhops, to avoid being cruſhed by the coaches, which are driven as near the wall as the coachman pleaſes, diſperſing the people, on their approach, like chaff before the wind.

Monarchy, or rather deſpotiſm, (however harſh that term may ſound in the ear of a Frenchman) is carried ſo very high in France, that it quite loſes ſight of the bulk of the nation, and pays attention only to a few, who, being in exalted ſtations, come within the court's ſphere of viſion. There is no queſtion, that government leaves the middle and inferior ranks of life in ſome degree unprotected, and expoſed to the injuſtice and inſolence of the great, who, in this country, are conſidered as ſomewhat above the law, though greatly below the monarch. But the poliſhed mildneſs of French manners, and the gay and ſociable turn of the nation, the affable and eaſy conduct of maſters to their ſervants, ſupply the deficiencies, and correct the errors of the government, and render the condition of the common people in France, but particularly at Paris, better then in ſeveral other countries in Europe; and much more

more tolerable than it would be, if the national character reſembled that of thoſe countries.

If good-breeding be one ſtriking part of the French national character, loyalty, or an uncommon fondneſs for, and attachment to, the perſons of their princes, is another. An Engliſhman, though he views the virtues of his king with a jealous eye during his reign, yet he will do them all juſtice in the reign of his ſucceſſor. A German, while he is ſilent with regard to the foibles of his prince, admires all his talents much more than he would the ſame qualities in any other perſon. A Turk, or Perſian, contemplates his emperor with fear and reverence, as a ſuperior being, to whoſe pleaſure it is his duty to ſubmit, as to the laws of Nature, and the will of Providence. But a Frenchman, while he knows that his king is of the ſame nature, and liable to all the weakneſſes of other men; while he enumerates his follies, and laughs as he laments them, is nevertheleſs attached to him by a ſentiment of equal reſpect and tenderneſs; a kind of affectionate prejudice, independent of his real character.

Roi, (or as we tranſlate it, *king*) is a word which conveys to the minds of Frenchmen the ideas of benevolence, gratitude, and love, as well as thoſe of power, grandeur, and happineſs. They flock to Verſailles every Sunday, behold him with unſated curioſity, and gaze on him with as much ſatisfaction the twentieth

twentieth time as the firſt. They conſider him as their friend, though he does not know their perſons; as their protector, though their greateſt danger is from an exempt or letter de cachet; and as their benefactor, while they are oppreſſed with taxes. They magnify into importance his moſt indifferent actions, they palliate and excuſe all his weakneſſes, and they impute his errors or crimes to his miniſters or evil counſellors, who, as they fondly aſſert, have, for ſome baſe purpoſe, impoſed upon his judgment, and perverted the undeviating rectitude of his intentions. They repeat, with fond applauſe, every ſaying of his which ſeems to indicate the ſmalleſt approach to wit, or even bears the mark of ordinary penetration.

No circumſtance, however inconſiderable, which relates to the monarch, eſcapes being conſidered of importance. Whether he eat much or little at dinner; the coat he wears, the horſe on which he rides, all afford matter of converſation in the various ſocieties at Paris, and are the moſt agreeable ſubjects of epiſtolary correſpondence with their friends in the provinces. If he happen to be a little indiſpoſed, all Paris, all France, is alarmed, as if a real calamity was threatened; and to ſeem intereſted, or to converſe on any other ſubject till this has been diſcuſſed, would be conſidered as a proof of unpardonable indifference. At a review, the troops perform their manœuvres unheeded by ſuch of the ſpectators as are within ſight of the king. At maſs,

maſs, it is the king, not the prieſt, who is the object of attention. The hoſt is elevated, but the eyes of the people remain fixed upon the face of their beloved monarch. Even the moſt applauded pieces of the theatre, which in Paris create more emotion than the ceremonies of religion, can with difficulty divide their attention. A ſmile from the king makes them forget the ſorrow of Andromaché, and the wrongs of the Cid.

This exceſſive attachment is not confined to the perſon of the monarch, but extends to every branch of the royal family, all of whom, it is imagined in this country, have an hereditary right to every gratification and enjoyment that human nature is capable of receiving. The moſt trivial diſappointment or chagrin which befals them, is conſidered as more ſerious and affecting, than the moſt dreadful calamity which can happen to a private family. It is lamented, as if the natural order of things was counteracted, and the amiable prince or princeſs deprived, by a cruel phænomenon, of that ſupreme degree of happineſs, to which their rank in life gives them an undeniable title.

All this regard ſeems real, and not affected from any motive of intereſt; at leaſt it muſt be ſo with the bulk of the people, who can have no hopes of ever being known to their princes, far leſs of ever receiving any perſonal favours from them. The French ſeem ſo delighted and dazzled with the luſtre of monarchy, that they cannot bear the thoughts

of any qualifying mixture, which might abate its violence, and render its ardour more benign. They chooſe to give the ſplendid machine full play, though it often ſcorches and threatens to conſume themſelves and their effects. They conſider the power of the king, from which their ſervitude proceeds, as if it were their own power; and they tell you with exultation, that the king has an army of near two hundred thouſand men in the time of peace. A Frenchman is as vain of the palaces, fine gardens, number of horſes, and all the parapharnalia belonging to the court of the monarch, as an Engliſhman can be of his own houſe, gardens, and equipage.

It is in ſome meaſure unneceſſary to obſerve, that there are a great many people in France, who think in a very different manner from that I have juſt mentioned, and who have juſt and liberal ideas of the deſign and nature of government, and proper and manly ſentiments of the natural rights of mankind. The writings of Monteſquieu are greatly admired, and this is a ſufficient proof of it. Many later authors, and the converſation of the philoſophical and reaſoning part of the people, diſplay the ſame ſpirit. What I have before mentioned, however, comprehends the general turn or manner of thinking of the French nation, and evinces how very oppoſite their ſentiments upon the ſubject of civil government are to thoſe of Engliſhmen.

This ſolicitude of the French for the happineſs and glory of royalty extends, in ſome degree,

degree, to all crowned heads whatever; but, with regard to their own monarch, it ſeems the reigning and darling paſſion of their ſouls, which they carry with them to their graves. A French ſoldier, who lay covered with wounds on the field of Dettingen, demanded, a little before he expired, of an Engliſh officer, how the battle was likely to terminate; and being anſwered, that the Britiſh troops had obtained a great victory, "My poor king, (ſaid the dying Frenchman) what will he do!"

No people exiſting, or who ever did exiſt, have had ſo juſt a claim to the gratitude and affections of their ſovereign as the French. They rejoice in his joy, are grieved at his grief, proud of his power, vain of his accompliſhments, and indulgent to his failings. They cheerfully yield their own conveniencies to his ſuperfluities, and are at all times willing to ſacrifice their lives to his glory.

One would imagine, that a king muſt be a perfect monſter of ſelfiſhneſs and inſenſibility, who did not love ſuch ſubjects, and who did not beſtow ſome time and attention to promote their happineſs; yet the French nation has not had a monarch worthy of all this regard ſince the days of Henry IV. and of all their kings they uſed him the worſt. Of the three brothers who immediately preceded him, the firſt was a ſickly creature, and as feeble in mind as in body; the ſecond was a monſter of ſuperſtition and cruelty; and the third, after a dawn of ſome brightneſs, allowed his meri-

dian to be obſcured by the groſſeſt clouds of effeminacy and voluptuouſneſs. Their Italian mother, who governed all the three, ſeems to have been perfectly unreſtrained by any feelings of humanity or conſcience, and ſolely guided by motives of intereſt and the moſt perfidious policy. The princes who have ſucceeded, as well as thoſe who reigned before the fourth Henry, ſerve as foils which diſplay his bright qualities with double luſtre. Nowithſtanding all the inducements which the French kings have to promote the happineſs of their ſubjects, it may be many centuries before they be bleſſed with one who ſhall ſo eminently poſſeſs that paſſion.

A character, in which the great and amiable virtues are ſo finely blended, is very rarely produced in any nation. How ſmall then muſt be the chance, that this prize ſhall fall to the individual who is deſtined for the throne? Henry received an education very different from that which is generally beſtowed on kings. His character was formed in the hardy ſchool of adverſity, and his mind was ſtrengthened by continual exertions of courage and prudence. He was taught humanity by ſuffering under the rod of tyranny, and experiencing the pangs of the unfortunate. Having frequently ſtood in need of friends, he knew the value of their attachment, and his heart became capable of friendſhip with all its niceſt feelings.

Dangers and difficulties often ſtrike out particles of genius, which otherwiſe might remain

the trueſt ſympathy, and enter with the moſt lively ſenſibility, into the ſituation of the unfortunate.

Short account of GENEVA *and its government, and the manners of the inhabitants.*

GENEVA is, in many reſpects, very happily ſituated, and as much ſo as the heart of man can deſire, or his imagination conceive. The Rhone, ruſhing out of the nobleſt lake in Europe, flows through the middle of the city, which is encircled by fertile fields, cultivated by the induſtry, and adorned by the riches and taſte of the inhabitants. The long ridge of mountains, called Mount Jura, on the one ſide, with the Alps, the Glaciers of Savoy, and the ſnowy head of Mount Blanc on the other, ſerve as boundaries to the moſt charmingly-varigated landſcape that ever delighted the eye.

With theſe advantages in point of ſituation, the citizens of Geneva enjoy freedom untainted by licentiouſneſs, and ſecurity unbought by the horrors of war. The great number of men of letters, who either are natives of the place, or have choſen it for their reſidence, the decent manners, the eaſy circumſtances, and humane diſpoſitions of the Genevois in general, render this city and its

its environs a very desirable retreat for people of a philosophic turn of mind, who are contented with moderate and calm enjoyments, who have no local attachments or domestic reasons for preferring another country, and who wish, in a certain degree, to retire from the bustle of the world, to a narrower and calmer scene, and there, for the rest of their days, to bury the cares of life in a pleasing oblivion.

The citizens of Geneva of both sexes are remarkably well instructed, education here being equally cheap and liberal. It is not uncommon to find mechanics, in the interval of their labour, amusing themselves with the works of Locke, Montesquieu, Newton, and other productions of the same nature. But the cheapness of a liberal education here must be confined to the natives and citizens only; for strangers now find every thing dear at Geneva. Wherever Englishmen resort, this is the case; for, if they do not find things dear, they soon make them so.

Every citizen is inspired with an idea of his own importance, from the democratical nature of their government. He perceives, that no man in the republic can insult, or even neglect him, with impunity. It is an excellent circumstance in any government, when the most powerful man in the state has something to fear from the most feeble. This is the case here; for the meanest citizen of Geneva is possessed of certain rights, which render him an object deserving the attention of the greatest. As far

as

remain latent and uſeleſs, and contribute to the formation of a vigorous character, by animating thoſe ſparks of virtue, which a life of indolence would have completely extinguiſhed. Thoſe people who, from their earlieſt infancy, have found every thing provided for them, who have not much ambition, and conſequently are ſeldom excited to any great exertion of their faculties, generally feel theſe faculties dwindle and grow weak; for the ſame reaſons that a man's arms would become gradually feeble, and at length perfectly uſeleſs, if he were to wear them in a ſcarf for any conſiderable time. For that the faculties of the underſtanding, like the ſinews of the body, are relaxed by ſloth, and ſtrengthened by exerciſe, nobody will doubt. I preſume the ſame analogy holds, in ſome degree, between the body and the qualities of the heart. Benevolence, pity, and gratitude, are, I ſuſpect, exceedingly apt to ſtagnate into a calm, into ſluggiſh inſenſibility, in that breaſt which has not been agitated by real misfortunes.

Few people fully enter into diſtreſſes which they never felt, and which they think they run but a ſmall riſk of feeling. It has hence been remarked, that thoſe who have been favoured through life with the ſmiles of fortune, and whoſe time has been ſpent in the amuſements of courts, and luxurious indulgences, very often acquire an aſtoniſhing inſenſibility to the misfortunes of others. The

character the moſt perfectly cold of all I ever knew, devoid of friendſhip, gratitude, and even natural affection, belongs to a perſon, whoſe life has been a continued ſeries of fortunate events. Yet, while all their cares are contracted, and all their feelings abſorbed, within the compaſs of their own ſkin, ſuch people ſeem often convinced, that they themſelves are of the moſt humane diſpoſitions, and the moſt extenſive benevolence, upon no better foundation, than becauſe they have felt themſelves affected by the artful diſtreſſes of a romance, and becauſe they could ſhed a few barren tears at a tragedy.

If to theſe ſymptoms of ſenſibility, they can add, that of having given a guinea when the contribution has been ſet on foot, or have parted with a little ſuperfluous money to free themſelves from importunity, they have carried benevolence to the utmoſt length of *their* idea of that virtue. They have no notion of any thing beyond this; nor would they make one active exertion, poſtpone a ſingle party of pleaſure, or in any ſhape interrupt the tranquillity of their own indolence, to perform the moſt eſſential ſervice (I will not ſay to a friend, ſuch people can have none) to any of the human race. There are, indeed, many exceptions; but in general, thoſe perſons who are expoſed to "the ſtings and arrows of outrageous fortune;" who have experienced the baſe indifference of mankind, and have, in ſome degree, "felt what wretches feel," are endued with the

as I can judge, a ſpirit of independency and freedom, tempered by ſentiments of decency and the love of order, influence, in a moſt remarkable manner, the minds of the ſubjects of this happy republic, where tyranny and oppreſſion are not ſuffered to enter their walls.

The generality of the Genevois clergy are men of ſenſe, learning, and moderation, impreſſing upon the minds of their hearers the tenets of chriſtianity with all the graces of pulpit eloquence, and illuſtrating the efficacy of their doctrine by their conduct in life. The people of every ſtation attend the public worſhip with remarkable punctuality, and the Sunday is honoured with the moſt reſpectful decorum during the hours of divine ſervice; but, as ſoon as that is over, all the uſual amuſements commence. The public walks are crowded by all degrees of people in their beſt dreſſes. The different ſocieties, and what they call circles, aſſemble in the houſes and gardens of individuals. They play at bowls and at cards, and make parties on the lake, to which the aſſiſtance of muſic is added.

A very ſingular cuſtom prevails here, and is perhaps peculiar to Geneva. The parents form ſocieties for their children at a very early period of their lives. Theſe ſocieties conſiſt of ten, or a dozen, or more children of the ſame ſex, and nearly of the ſame age and ſituation in life. They aſſemble once a week in the houſes of the different parents, who entertain the company by turns with tea, coffee, biſcuits, and fruit, and then leave the young aſſembly

assembly to the freedom of their own conversation. This connection is strictly kept up through life, whatever alterations may take place in the situations or circumstances of the individuals; and, although they should afterwards form new or preferable intimacies, they never entirely abandon their society: to the latest periods of their lives, they continue to pass a few evenings every year with the companions of their youthful and earliest friendship.

The more wealthy class of the citizens pass one half of the year at their country-houses, which in general command the most beautiful prospects: the gardens and vineyards of the republic, the Païs de Vaux, Geneva with its lakes, innumerable country-seats, castles and little towns around the lake, the vallies of Savoy, and the loftiest mountains of the Alps, are all within one sweep of the eye, and form the most beautiful scenery that can be conceived.

Among the inhabitants of Geneva undoubtedly must be many, whose fortunes or employments do not permit them to pass the summer in the country. These make frequent parties of pleasure upon the lake, and dine and spend the evening at some of the villages in the environs, where they amuse themselves with music and dancing. They sometimes form themselves into circles, consisting of forty or fifty persons, and purchase or hire a house and garden near the town, where they assemble every afternoon during the summer, drink coffee,

coffee, lemonade, and other refreſhing liquors, and amuſe themſelves with cards, converſation, and playing at bowls. This laſt game is very different from that which goes by the ſame name in England; for here, inſtead of a ſmooth level green, they often chooſe the rougheſt and moſt unequal piece of ground. The player, inſtead of rolling the bowl, throws it in ſuch a manner, that it reſts in the place where it firſt touches the ground; and, if that be a fortunate ſituation, the next player pitches his bowl directly on that of his adverſary, ſo as to make that ſpring away, while his own fixes itſelf in the ſpot from which the other had been diſlodged, and ſome of the citizens are extremely dexterous at this game.

Theſe circles generally continue till the duſk of the evening, when the ſound of the drum from the ramparts calls them to the town. At that time the gates are ſhut, after which no perſon can enter or go out, the officer of the guard not having the power to open them, without an order from the ſyndics, which is not to be obtained but upon ſome very great and preſſing occaſion; for the Genevois are wonderfully jealous of the external, as well as the internal enemies of their independency. This jealouſy has been tranſmitted from one generation to another, ever ſince the attempt made by the duke of Savoy, in the year 1602, to ſeize upon the town. He marched an army, under cover of a dark night, and in the time of peace, to the gates, applied ſcaling-ladders to the ramparts and walls, and, having ſurprized

prized the centinels, ſeveral hundreds of the Savoyard ſoldiers had actually gotten into the town, and the reſt were following, when they were at length diſcovered by a woman, who gave the alarm. The Genevois ſtarted from their ſleep, ſeized the readieſt arms they could find, attacked the aſſailants with ſpirit and energy, killed numbers in the ſtreet, drove others out of the gate, or tumbled them over the ramparts, and the few who were taken priſoners, they beheaded next morning, without ceremony or any kind of trial.

The day on which this memorable exploit was performed is annually diſtinguiſhed as a day of public thankſgiving and rejoicing. It is called *Le Jour de l'Eſcalade*, and there is divine worſhip in all the churches. The clergymen, on this occaſion, recapitulate all the circumſtances of this intereſting event; put the audience in mind of the gratitude they owe to Divine Providence, and to the valour of their anceſtors, which ſaved them in ſo remarkable a manner from civil and religious bondage; enumerate the peculiar bleſſings which they enjoy, and exhort them, in the moſt pathetic ſtrain, to watch over their liberties, remain ſteady in their religion, and tranſmit theſe, and all their other advantages, unimpaired to their poſterity. After divine ſervice, the evening is ſpent in viſiting, feaſting, dancing, and all kinds of diverſion; for the Genevois ſeldom venture on public feſtivity, till they have previouſly performed their religious duties.

Geneva

Geneva keeps in pay a garriſon of ſix hundred mercenaries, who mount guard, and do duty every day; but they do not truſt the ſafety of the republic to theſe alone, as every citizen is a ſoldier. They are exerciſed ſeveral hours daily, for two months, every ſummer; during which time they wear their uniforms, and at the end of that period are reviewed by the ſyndics. As they receive no pay, and as the officers are their fellow-citizens, it cannot be expected, that theſe troops ſhould perform the manual exerciſe and military evolutions, with the exactneſs of ſoldiers who have no other occupation, and who are under all the rigour of military diſcipline; however, they make a very reſpectable figure, even in the eyes of diſintereſted ſpectators.

This republic, like all free ſtates, is expoſed to party-rage, and the public harmony is frequently interrupted by political ſquabbles. Without entering into a detail of the particular diſputes which agitate them at preſent, it will be ſufficient to mention, in general, that one part of the citizens are accuſed of the deſign of throwing all the power into the hands of a few families, and of eſtabliſhing a complete ariſtocracy. The other oppoſes every method which is thought to have that tendency, and by their adverſaries are accuſed of deſigns inimical to the public good.

Account of the GENEVOIS MILITARY FEASTS.

THE republic of Geneva has long enjoyed a profound peace, and there is little probability of its ſoon being engaged in the horrors of war. The citizens, however, are fond of martial pomp; and this evidently appears in what they call their Military Feaſts, which are their moſt favourite amuſements, and which they are fond of enjoying whenever opportunity offers. I happened to be preſent at a very grand entertainment of this kind, which was given by the king of the Arquebuſiers, upon his acceſſion to the royal dignity.

Neither hereditary right nor intereſted elections can attain this envied rank, as it can be gained only by real merit and ſkill. A war with this ſtate muſt neceſſarily conſiſt of a ſiege, and, therefore, the ſkilful uſe of the cannon and arquebuſe is thought to be of the greateſt importance. During ſeveral months every year, a conſiderable number of the citizens are almoſt continually employed at firing at a mark, which is placed at a proper diſtance. Any citizen has a right, at a ſmall expence, to make trial of his ſkill in this way; and after a due number of trials, the moſt expert markſman is declared king of the Arquebuſiers.

A coronation of this kind had not happened for ten years, as the late king had kept peaceable poſſeſſion of the throne during that pe-

riod;

riod; but the ſummer I happened to be there, Mr. Moſes Maudrier was found to excel every competitor in ſkill, and was raiſed to the throne by the unanimous voice of the judges. He was attended to his houſe from the field of conteſt by the ſyndics, amidſt the acclamations of the people.

Some time after this, on the day of his feaſt, a camp was formed on the plain, without the gates of the city. Here the whole forces of the republic, both horſe and foot, were aſſembled, and divided into two diſtinct armies. They were to perform a battle in honour of his majeſty, all the combatants having previouſly ſtudied their parts. This very ingenious warlike drama had been compoſed by one of the reverend miniſters, who was ſaid to poſſeſs a very extenſive military genius; and in order that the ladies and perſons of diſtinction, who were not to be actually engaged, might view the action with the greater eaſe and ſafety, a large amphitheatre of ſeats was prepared for them, at a convenient diſtance from the field of battle.

As ſoon as every thing was ready, the ſyndics, the council, ſtrangers of diſtinction, and the relations and favourites of the king, aſſembled at his majeſty's palace, which was a little ſnug houſe, ſituated in a narrow lane in the lower part of the city. The proceſſion ſet out from the palace. His majeſty walked firſt, ſupported by the two oldeſt ſyndics. After theſe followed the ſtrangers of diſtinction; next to them came the council of twenty-five, and

the king's relations and particular friends closed the procession. In this order they marched through the city, preceded by a band of music playing martial tunes.

As soon as the company entered the field where the troops were drawn up, they were saluted by the officers; and, having made a complete circuit of both armies, the king and all his attendants took their seats at the amphitheatre, which had been prepared for that purpose. All this time, the impatience of the troops was very visible, and when the king was seated, their ardour could be no longer restrained. They called loudly to their officers to lead them to glory. The signal was given, and they advanced to the attack in the most undaunted manner. Conscious that they fought under the eyes of their king, the syndics, their wives, children, mothers, and grandmothers, they disdained the thoughts of retreat, and stood undisturbed by the thickest fire. They smiled at the roaring of the cannon, and rejoiced in the sound of the trumpets.

The ingenious author of the battle had taken care to diversify it with several entertaining incidents. An ambuscade was placed by one of the armies, behind some trees, to surprise the enemy. This succeeded to a miracle, although the ambuscade was posted in the sight of both armies, and all the spectators. A convoy with provisions, advancing towards one of the armies, was attacked by a detachment from the other, and, after a smart skirmish, one half of the waggons was carried off by the assailants;

aſſailants; the other remained with the troops, for whom they ſeemed to have been originally intended. A wooden bridge was briſkly attacked, and as reſolutely defended, but at length was trodden to pieces by both armies; for, in the fury of the fight, the combatants forgot, whether this poor bridge was their friend or their foe. By what means it got into the midſt of the battle, I never could conceive, for there was neither river, brook, nor ditch, in the whole field. The cavalry on both ſides performed wonders, and it was difficult to determine which of the generals diſtinguiſhed himſelf the moſt. They were both dreſſed in clothes exuberantly covered with lace; for the ſumptuary laws were ſuſpended for this day, that the battle might be as magnificent as poſſible. As neither of theſe gallant commanders would conſent to the being defeated, the reverend author of the engagement could not make the cataſtrophe ſo deciſive and affecting as he intended; but, while victory, with equipoiſed wings, hovered over both armies, a meſſenger arrived from the town-hall with intelligence that dinner was ready. This news quickly ſpread among the combatants, and had an effect ſimilar to that which the Sabine women produced, when they ruſhed between their raviſhers and their relations. The warriors of Geneva at once relented, and both armies ſuſpended their animoſity, in the contemplation of that which they both loved. They threw down their arms, ſhook hands, and were as good friends as ever.

The battle being thus finiſhed, the ſame company that had attended the king to the field of battle, marched with him in proceſſion from thence to the town-hall, where a ſumptuous entertainment was prepared. This was exactly the reverſe of a *fête champêtre*, being held in the town-hall, and in the middle of the ſtreets adjacent, where tables were covered, and dinner provided, for ſeveral hundreds of the officers and ſoldiers. The king, the ſyndics, moſt of the members of the council, and all the ſtrangers, dined in the town-hall. The other rooms, as well as the outer court, were likewiſe filled with gueſts of different claſſes.

The ſcene of havock at dinner was litt leinferior to that on the field of battle, and the entertainment was nearly as warlike. A kettle-drum was placed in the middle of the hall, upon which a martial flouriſh was performed at every toaſt. This was immediately anſwered by the drums and trumpets without the hall, and the cannon of the baſtion. Proſperity to the republic is a favourite toaſt. When this was announced by the firſt ſyndic, all the company ſtood up, with their ſwords drawn in one hand, and glaſſes filled with wine in the other. Having drank the toaſt, they claſhed their ſwords, which is a ceremony always performed in every circle or club, where there is a public dinner, as often as this particular toaſt is given. It is an old cuſtom, and implies, that every man is ready to fight in defence of the republic.

About

About two hours after we had been at table, a new ceremony took place, which I little expected in the middle of a feaſt. An hundred grenadiers, with their ſwords drawn, marched with great ſolemnity into the middle of the hall; for the tables being placed in the form of a horſe-ſhoe, there was vacant ſpace in the middle ſufficient to admit them. They deſired permiſſion to give a toaſt, which being granted, each of the grenadiers, by a well-timed movement, like a motion in the exerciſe, pulled from his pocket a large water-glaſs. Theſe were immediately filled with wine, and one of the ſoldiers, in the name of all, drank a health to king Moſes the Firſt. His example was followed by his companions and all the company, and was honoured by the ſound of the drums, trumpets, and artillery. When the grenadiers had drank this, and a toaſt or two more, they wheeled about, and marched out of the hall with the ſame ſolemnity with which they had entered, reſuming their places at the tables in the ſtreet.

After this ſcene had paſſed, a man fantaſtically dreſſed entered the hall, and diſtributed among the company ſome printed ſheets, which ſeemed to have come directly from the preſs. This proved to be a ſong made for the occaſion, replete with gaiety, wit, and good ſenſe, pointing out, in a humourous ſtrain, the advantages which the citizens of Geneva poſſeſſed, and exhorting them to unanimity, induſtry, and public ſpirit. This ballad was ſung by the

the man who brought it, while many of the company joined in the chorus.

After all this had paſſed, we deſcended from the town-hall, and found the ſoldiers intermingled with their officers, ſtill ſeated at the tables in the ſtreets, and encircled by their wives and children. They all roſe ſoon after, and dividing into different companies, repaired to the ramparts, the fields, and the gardens, where, with muſic and dancing, they continued in high glee during the reſt of the evening. The whole exhibition of the day, though no very juſt repreſentation of the manœuvres of war, or the elegance of a court entertainment, formed the moſt lively picture of jollity, mirth, good-humour, and cordiality, that I had ever ſeen. The inhabitants of a whole city, of a whole ſtate, if you pleaſe, united in one ſcene of good fellowſhip, like a ſingle family, is ſurely no common ſight.

A JOURNEY *to the* GLACIERS *of* SAVOY.

THE wonderful accounts I had heard of the Glaciers had conſiderably excited my curioſity, while the air of ſuperiority aſſumed by ſome who had made this boaſted tour, piqued my pride ſtill more. I could hardly mention any thing ſingular or curious, without being told

told by ſome of the travellers, with an air of cool contempt, "Dear Sir, that is pretty well; but, take my word for it, it is nothing to the Glaciers of Savoy." I determined at laſt not to take their word for it, and found ſome gentlemen of the ſame way of thinking.

We accordingly left Geneva early in the morning, in the month of Auguſt, and breakfaſted at Bonneville, a ſmall town in the duchy of Savoy, ſituated at the foot of Mole, and on the banks of the river Arve. The ſummit of Mole, as we were told, is about 4600 Engliſh feet above the lake of Geneva, at the lower paſſage of the Rhone, which laſt is about 1200 feet above the level of the Mediterranean.

We next proceeded to Cluſe, by a road tolerably good, and highly entertaining, on account of the ſingularity and variety of landſcape to be ſeen from it. Leaving Cluſe, we found a well-made road running along the banks of the Arve, and flanked on each ſide by high hills, whoſe oppoſite ſides tally ſo exactly, as to lead one to imagine they have been torn from each other by ſome violent convulſion of nature. In other places, one ſide of this defile is a high perpendicular rock, ſo very ſmooth that it ſeems not to have been torn by nature, but chiſeled by art, from top to bottom, while the whole of the ſide directly oppoſite is of the moſt ſmiling verdure. The paſſage between the mountains gradually opens as you advance, and the ſcene diverſifies with a fine luxuriancy of wild landſcape.

Before

Before we could enter the town of Sallenche, we were obliged to croſs the Arve, which, at that ſeaſon of the year, was much larger than in winter, being ſwoln by the diſſolving ſnows of the Alps. This river has its ſource at the pariſh of Argentiere, in the valley of Chamouni, is immediately augmented by torrents from the neighbouring Glaciers, and pours its chill turbid ſtream into the Rhone, ſoon after the river iſſues from the lake of Geneva. The contraſt between theſe two rivers is very ſtriking, the one being as pure and limpid as the other is foul and muddy. The Rhone ſeems to ſcorn the alliance, and keeps as long as poſſible unmingled with his dirty ſpouſe. Two miles below the place of their junction, a difference and oppoſition between this ill-ſorted couple is ſtill obſervable. Theſe, however, gradually abate by long habit, till at laſt, yielding to neceſſity, and to thoſe unrelenting laws which joined them together, they mix in perfect union, and flow to the end of their courſe in one common ſtream.

Leaving Sallenche, many pathleſs craggy mountains remained to be traverſed, and we had nothing but the ſagacity of our mules to truſt to. For my own part, I was very ſoon convinced, that it was much ſafer, on all dubious occaſions, to depend on theirs than my own; for, as often as I was preſented with a choice of difficulties, and the mule and I were of different opinions, if, becoming more obſtinate than he, I inſiſted on his taking my track, I never failed to repent it, and

often

often was obliged to return to the place where the controverſy between me and my mule had begun, and follow the path which he had at firſt pointed out. It is entertaining to obſerve the prudence of theſe animals, in making their way down ſuch dangerous rocks. They ſometimes put their heads over the edge of the precipice, and examine with anxious circumſpection every poſſible way by which then can deſcend, and at length are ſure to fix on that which upon the whole is the beſt. Having obſerved this in ſeveral inſtances, I laid my bridle on the neck of the mule, and allowed him to take his own way.

We arrived at the valley of Chamouni about ſix in the evening, and found lodgings in a ſmall village called Priouré. This valley is about ſix leagues in length, and an Engliſh mile in breadth. It is bounded on all ſides by very high mountains. Between the intervals of theſe mountains, on one ſide of the valley, the vaſt bodies of ſnow and ice, which are called Glaciers, deſcend from Mont Blanc, which is their ſource. On one ſide of the valley, oppoſite to the Glaciers, ſtands Breven, a mountain whoſe ridge is 5300 Engliſh feet higher than the valley. Many travellers, who have more curioſity, and who think leſs of fatigue than we did, take the firſt view of the Glaciers from the top of Mont Breven. As there is only the narrow valley between that and the Glaciers, all of which it overlooks, and every other object around,

around, except Mont Blanc, the view from it muſt be very magnificent and pleaſing.

Our firſt excurſion from hence was to Montanvert, for which we ſet out pretty early the next morning. From the top of this mountain there is eaſy acceſs to the Glaciers of that name, and to the Valley of Ice. Our mules carried us from the inn acroſs the valley, and even for a conſiderable way up the mountain, which at length became ſo exceedingly ſteep, that we were obliged to diſmount and ſend them back. After continuing the aſcent four hours, we gained the ſummit of Montanvert. The day was remarkably fine, the objects around noble and majeſtic, but in ſome reſpects different from what I had expected. There is a chain of mountains behind Montanvert, all covered with ſnow, which terminate in four diſtinct rocks, of a great height, having the appearance of narrow pyramids or ſpires, and are called the Needles.

Having aſcended Montanvert from Chamouni, on deſcending a little on the other ſide, we found ourſelves on a plain, whoſe appearance has been properly compared to that which a ſtrong ſea would have, if it were ſuddenly arreſted and fixed by a ſtrong froſt. This is called the Valley of Ice. It ſtretches ſeveral leagues behind Montanvert, and is reckoned 2300 feet higher than the valley of Chamouni. From the higheſt part of Montanvert we had all the following objects under

our

our eye, ſome of which ſeem to obſtruct the view of others equally intereſting: the Valley of Ice, the Needles, Mont Blanc, with the ſnowy mountains below, finely contraſted with Breven, and the green hills on the oppoſite ſide of Chamouni, and the ſun in full ſplendour, ſhowing all of them to the greateſt advantage. The whole formed a ſcene equally ſublime and beautiful, and far above my power of deſcription.

Here we ſat down to a very agreeable repaſt, on the proviſions and wine which our guides had brought from Prieuré. We then paſſed, by an eaſy deſcent, from the green part of Montanvert to the Valley of Ice. A walk upon this frozen ſea is attended with ſome inconveniencies, as in ſome places, the ſwellings, which have been compared to waves, are forty or fifty feet high; yet, as they are rough, and the ice intermingled with ſnow, one may walk over them. In ſome parts, theſe waves are of a very moderate ſize, and in ſome places the ſurface is quite level. What renders a paſſage over this valley ſtill more dangerous and difficult is, the rents of the ice, which are to be met with in whatever direction you follow. Theſe rents are from two to ſix feet wide, and of an amazing depth, reaching from the ſurface of the valley, through a body of ice many hundred fathoms thick. On throwing down a ſtone, or any other ſolid ſubſtance, we could hear the hollow murmur of its deſcent for a very long time, ſounding like far-diſtant waves breaking

upon rocks. Our guides, emboldened by habit, ſkipped over theſe rents without any ſign of fear, though they informed us, that they had often ſeen freſh clefts formed while they walked on the valley. They added, indeed, for our encouragement, that this was always preceded by a loud continued noiſe, which gave warning of what was to happen. It is evident, however, that this warning, though it ſhould always precede the rent, could be of little uſe to thoſe who had advanced to the middle of the valley; for they neither could know certainly in what direction to run, nor could they have time to get off; and, in caſe the ice ſhould yawn directly under their feet, they muſt inevitably periſh. But perhaps few accidents of that kind happen, which has greater influence than any thing elſe that can be advanced.

Natural philoſophers ſuppoſe, that the ſnow and ice at the bottom melting by the warmth of the earth, leave great vacancies in the form of vaults. Theſe natural arches ſupport, for a long time, an amazing weight of ice and ſnow, for there is a vaſt diſtance from the bottom to the ſurface of this valley. But the ice beneath continuing to diſſolve, and the ſnow above to increaſe, the arches muſt at laſt give way, which occaſions the noiſe and rents before mentioned.

We were alſo told of the great havock made by the avalanches. Theſe are formed of ſnow driven by the winds againſt the higheſt and moſt protuberant parts of rocks and mountains,

tains, where it hardens and adheres ſometimes till a prodigious maſs be accumulated; but when theſe ſupporters are able to ſuſtain the increaſing weight no longer, the avalanche falls at once, hurrying large portions of the looſened rock or mountain along with it, and rolling from a vaſt height, with a thundering noiſe, to the valley, involves in certain deſtruction all the trees, houſes, cattle, and men, which lie in its way. The greater part of thoſe who have made a journey to the Glaciers, have ſeen one or more of theſe avalanches in the very act of falling, and have themſelves always eſcaped by miracle. Juſt as moſt people, who have made a ſingle voyage by ſea, if it were only between Dover and Calais, have met with a ſtorm, and very narrowly eſcaped with their lives.

The Valley of Ice is ſeveral leagues in length, and not above a quarter of a league in breadth. It divides into two branches, which run behind the chain of mountains before taken notice of. It appears like a frozen amphitheatre, and is bounded by mountains, in whoſe clifts columns of cryſtal, as we were informed, are to be found.

Having walked a conſiderable time on the valley, and being ſufficiently regaled with ice, we at length thought of returning to our cottage at Prieuré. Our guides led us down by a ſhorter and ſteeper way than that by which we had aſcended; and, in about two hours after we had began our deſcent, we found ourſelves at the bottom of the mountain.

As we were ſtill a couple of miles diſtant from our lodgings, it was with the greateſt ſatisfaction that I ſaw our obſequious mules in waiting to carry us to our cottage; where having at laſt arrived, and being aſſembled in a ſmall room, excluded from the view of icy vallies, cryſtal hills, and ſnowy mountains, with nothing before us but humble objects, as cold meat, coarſe bread, and poor wine, we contrived to paſs an hour before going to bed, in talking over the exploits of the day, and the wonders we had ſeen. Whether there be greater pleaſure in this, or in viewing the ſcenes themſelves, is a queſtion not yet decided by the caſuiſt.

There are five or ſix different Glaciers, which all terminate upon one ſide of the valley of Chamouni, within the ſpace of about five leagues. There are prodigious collections of ſnow and ice, formed in the intervals or hollows, between the mountains that bound the ſides of the valley near which Mont Blanc ſtands. The ſnow in theſe hollows being ſkreened from the influence of the ſun, the heat of ſummer can diſſolve only a certain portion of it. Theſe magazenes of ice and ſnow are not formed by what falls directly from the heavens into the intervals, but are ſupplied by the ſnow which falls during winter on the loftieſt parts of Mont Blanc; large beds or ſtrata of which ſlide down imperceptibly by their own gravity, and finding no reſiſtance at theſe intervals, they form long irregular roofs round all the adjacent mountains.

Five

Five of these enter, by five different embouchures, into the valley of Chamouni, and are called Glaciers, on one of which we had been. At present, their surface is from a thousand to two thousand feet high above the valley. Their breadth depends on the wideness of the interval between the mountains in which they are formed. Viewed from the valley, they have, in my opinion, a much finer effect than from their summit. The rays of the sun striking with various force on the different parts, according as they are more or less exposed, occasion an unequal dissolution of the ice; and, with the help of a little imagination, give the appearance of columns, arches, and turrets, which are in some places transparent. A fabric of ice in this taste, two thousand feet high, and three times as broad, with the sun shining full upon it, must be acknowledged to be a very singular piece of architecture.

Remarks on the GRANDEUR *and* GLOOMINESS *of* ROME.

MAGNIFICENCE, hypocrisy, and sadness, reign at Rome. The number of fine palaces, beautiful churches, superb fountains, the treasures of art, and venerable remains of antiquity, give an air of grandeur

to Rome, which is not to be found in any other country. The want of public entertainments, the little population in proportion to the extent of the city, and its ſituation, ſurrounded by hills which prevent a free circulation of air, added to the oppreſſive weight of the Scirocco wind, ſeem to me the chief cauſe of its real ſadneſs; but what increaſes this apparent gloom is the air of ſanctity which the Romans affect, and the general dreſs of the country, which is black. The habit of an abbé is the court dreſs; and as it is alſo the cheapeſt, every one wears it.

Every court is the abode of diſſimulation; at Rome there are as many courts as cardinals; every cardinal is a kind of prince, and may become a ſovereign. This reaſon alone may be ſufficient to evince, that this country muſt have more hypocritical characters than any other.

The pope, of all ſovereigns whom I have ſeen, repreſents majeſty the beſt. The cardinals are like Martial's epigrams; there are ſome good, ſome bad, and many indifferent. The women are reſerved in public, and in private extravagant to a degree; the prelates effeminate, the nobility illiterate, and the people wicked. The ſtudies generally purſued are the laws, antiquity, and divinity, becauſe theſe are the principal roads that here lead to fortune. A poet is conſidered as a dangerous, or at beſt as an uſeleſs being; and for this reaſon, a poetical talent is rather oppreſſed than encouraged.

You

You will often have occaſion to admire the genius of Corneille, for the truth with which he has drawn the Roman woman. The aſſurance of their eye, the firmneſs of their ſtep, every feature of their face, and every movement of their body, declare the boldneſs of their hearts. They have a very noble air, which is heightened by trailing robes which they all wear, down to the women of the third degree.

The Romans have ſomething like pride, which does not diſpleaſe me: it is that ſort of haughtineſs you ſee in a man of an ancient family fallen to decay; but it has a deſire of concealing itſelf, which pleaſes no one. The firſt proverb of the country is, "He who knows not how to diſſemble, knows not how to live;" and they all know how to live. They love obſcurity in every thing; and though this idea may ſeem trifling to ſome people, it is not ſo.

Rome is the worſt lighted city in Europe; the ſervants do not carry flambeaus; and the firſt princes of the country, in other reſpects extremely luxurious, only carry a ſmall dark-lanthorn behind their carriages.

The Roman has naturally depth of underſtanding and ſtrength of character; he is eaſily moved, and when he is moved, he is violent to exceſs. If the dreſs of the country were military, as you walked the ſtreets you would think yourſelf in ancient Rome, the faces that you meet ſo much reſembling the characters that hiſtory has tranſmitted to us.

This

This idea has often ſtruck me among the men, and it is ſtill more ſtriking among the women. You will often ſay, "There is a woman that might well be the mother of a Gracchus, and there is another who might produce a Sylla!" The number of Meſſalinas is ſmall, that of Lucretias leſs, and for Sempronias you will find them rather at Naples than at Rome.

The following is a mark of national diſtinction between a Roman and a Neapolitan woman: a woman of Naples is leſs modeſt than one of Rome, and more baſhful; Neapolitan women have been often ſeen to bluſh, but it is not poſſible to put a Roman woman out of countenance.

This is a ſlight ſketch of the preſent ſtate of that Rome, once doomed by fate, either in peace or war, to be the miſtreſs of the world; and where at preſent

> Prieſts, happy prieſts, with tranquil footſteps tread,
> On tombs and aſhes of the mighty dead.

Particulars reſpecting the climate of NAPLES, *and the coaſt of* BAIA, *&c.*

THE climate of Naples is by no means what we expected to find it; and the ſerene ſky of Italy, ſo much boaſted of by many

ny travellers, does not altogether deſerve the great elogiums beſtowed upon it. While we were at Naples, in May, it was indeed very warm; but ſeldom a day paſſed without ſudden ſtorms of wind and rain, which rendered walking in this place full as dangerous to invalids as it is in England.

The moſt diſagreeable part of the Neapolitan climate is the ſciroc, or ſouth-eaſt wind, which is very common at this ſeaſon. It is infinitely more relaxing, and gives the vapours in a much higher degree, than the worſt of our rainy Novembers. It gives a degree of laſſitude, both to the body and mind, that renders them abſolutely incapable of performing their uſual functions. It is not perhaps ſurpriſing, that it ſhould produce theſe effects on a phlegmatic Engliſh conſtitution; but we were convinced by experience, that all the mercury of France muſt ſink under the load of this horrid leaden atmoſphere. A ſmart Pariſian marquis was there at the time we were, and he was ſo full of animal ſpirits, that the people thought him mad. He never remained a moment in the ſame place; but, at their grave converſations, uſed to ſkip from room to room with ſuch amazing elaſticity, that the Italians fancied he had got ſprings in his ſhoes. However, I met him ſoon after the ſciroc ſet in, walking with the ſtep of a philoſopher, with a ſmelling-bottle in his hand, and all his vivacity extinguiſhed. I aſked him what was the matter. "Ah! my friend, (ſaid he) I am tired to death—I, who never knew

knew what weariſomneſs was—but this horrid wind—if it continue two days more, I ſhall certainly hang myſelf!"

The natives themſelves ſuffer equally with ſtrangers, and all nature ſeems to languiſh during this abominable wind. A Neapolitan lover avoids his miſtreſs, with the utmoſt care, in the time of the ſciroc, and the indolence it inſpires is almoſt ſufficient to extinguiſh every paſſion. All works of genius are laid aſide during its continuation; and when any thing very flat or inſipid is produced, the ſtrongeſt phraſe of diſapprobation they can beſtow is, that it was written in the time of the ſciroc. It is certainly not the warmth of this wind, that renders it ſo oppreſſive to the ſpirits; it is rather the want of that general quality, which is ſo enlivening, and which ever renders the weſtern breeze ſo agreeable. The ſpring and elaſticity of the air ſeem to be loſt; and that active principle, which animates all nature, appears to be dead. Sea-bathing, however, is found to be the beſt antidote againſt the effects of this pernicious wind.

The country round Naples abounds ſo much in every thing that is curious, both in art and nature, and affords ſo ample a field of ſpeculation for the naturaliſt and antiquary, that a perſon of any curioſity may ſpend ſome months here very agreeably, and not without profit. Beſides the diſcoveries of Herculaneum and Pompeia, which of themſelves afford a great fund of entertainment, the whole

coaſt

coaſt that ſurrounds this beautiful bay, particularly that near Puzzoli, Cuma, Micenum, and Baia, is covered with innumerable monuments of Roman magnificence. But, alas, how are the mighty fallen! This delightful coaſt, once the garden of all Italy, and inhabited only by the rich, the gay, and luxurious, is now abandoned to the pooreſt and moſt miſerable of all mortals. Perhaps, there is no ſpot on the globe that has undergone ſo thorough a change, or that can exhibit ſo ſtriking a picture of the vanity of human grandeur. Thoſe very walls that once lodged a Cæſar, a Lucullus, an Anthony, the richeſt and moſt voluptuous of mankind, are now occupied by the very meaneſt and moſt indigent wretches on earth, who are actually ſtarving for want in thoſe very apartments that were the ſcenes of the greateſt luxury. There, we are told, that ſuppers were frequently given, that coſt fifty thouſand pounds, and ſome that even amounted to double that ſum.

Indeed, the luxury of Baia was ſo great, that it became a proverb, even among the luxurious Romans themſelves; and, at Rome, we often find them upbraiding with effeminacy and epicuriſm, thoſe who ſpent much of their time in this ſcene of delight. Clodius throws it in Cicero's teeth more than once; and that orator, having purchaſed a villa here, hurt himſelf not a little in the opinion of the graver and more auſtere part of the ſenate. The walls of theſe palaces ſtill remain,

and

and the poor peaſants, in ſome places, have built up their miſerable huts within them; but, at preſent, there is not one gentleman or man of faſhion reſiding in any part of this country, the former ſtate of which, compared with the preſent, certainly makes the moſt ſtriking contraſt imaginable.

The bay of Naples is ſurrounded by the moſt beautiful ſcenery in the world. It is of a circular figure, and in moſt places upwards of twenty miles in diameter; ſo that including all its breaks and inequalities, the circumference is conſiderably more than ſixty miles. The whole of this ſpace is ſo wonderfully deverſified, by all the riches both of art and nature, that there is ſcarce an object wanting to render the ſcene complete; and it is hard to ſay, whether the view be more pleaſing from the ſingularity of many of theſe objects, or from the incredible variety of the whole. You ſee an amazing mixture of the ancient and modern, ſome riſing to fame, and others ſinking to ruin; palaces reared over the tops of other palaces, and ancient magnificence trampled under foot by modern folly; mountains and iſlands, that were celebrated for their fertility, changed into barren waſtes, and barren waſtes into fertile fields and rich vineyards; mountains ſunk into plains, and plains ſwelled into mountains; lakes drunk up by volcanoes, and extinguiſhed volcanoes turned into lakes; the earth ſtill ſmoaking in many places, and in others throwing out flame; in ſhort, Nature ſeems to have formed this

this coaſt in her moſt capricious mood; ſhe never ſeems to have gone ſeriouſly to work, but to have devoted this ſpot to the moſt unlimited indulgence of frolic and caprice.

The bay from Naples is ſhut out of the Mediterranean by the iſland of Capre, ſo famous for the abode of Auguſtus, and afterwards ſo infamous for that of Tiberius. A little to the left are, the celebrated promontory of Micænum, where Æneas landed; the claſſic fields of Baia, Cuma, and Puzzoli, with all the variety of ſcenery that formed both the Tartarus and Elyſium of the ancients; the beautiful promontory of Pauſillippe, exhibiting the fineſt ſcenery that can be imagined; the great and opulent city of Naples, with its three caſtles, its harbour full of ſhips from every nation; its palaces, churches, and convents innumerable. The rich country from thence to Portici is covered with noble houſes and gardens, appearing only a continuation of the city. The palace of the king, with many others ſurrounding it, are all built over the roofs of thoſe of Herculaneum, buried near an hundred feet by the eruptions of Veſuvius. The black fields of lava that have run from that mountain, are intermixed with gardens, vineyards, and orchards. Veſuvius itſelf forms the back ground of the ſcene, diſcharging volumes of fire and ſmoke, and forming a broad track in the air above our heads, extending without being broken or diſſipated to the utmoſt verge of the horizon.

The prodigious variety of mountains, vallies, promontories, and iſlands, covered with an everlaſting verdure, and loaded with the richeſt fruits, are all the produce of ſubterraneous fire. All this may appear to require too great a ſtretch of faith to be believed; yet the fact is certain, and can be doubted only by thoſe, who have wanted time or curioſity to examine it. It may indeed appear ſtrange, that Nature ſhould make uſe of the ſame agent to create as deſtroy, and that what has been looked upon only as the conſumer of countries, is in fact the very power that produces them. Indeed, this part of our earth ſeems already to have undergone the ſentence pronounced upon the whole of it; but, like the phœnix, has riſen again from its own aſhes, in much greater beauty and ſplendour than before it was comſumed. The traces of theſe dreadful conflagrations are ſtill conſpicuous in every corner: they have been violent in their operations, but have in the end proved ſalutary in their effects. The fire in many places it not yet extinguiſhed; but Veſuvius is now the only ſpot where it rages with any degree of activity.

Account of the Harbour of MESSINA, *the Whirlpool of* CHARYBDIS, *the* CONVENTS, *and the Feaſt of the* VARA.

A SMALL promontory or neck of land, that runs off from the eaſt end of Meſſina, forms the harbour, and ſeparates that beautiful baſon from the ſtraits. The ſhape of this promontory is that of a reaping-hook, the curviture of which forms the harbour, and ſecures it from all winds. It is one of the ſafeſt harbours in the world after ſhips have got in; but it is likewiſe one of the moſt difficult of acceſs. The celebrated gulf or whirlpool of Charybdis lies near to its entry, and often occaſions ſuch an inteſtine and irregular motion in the water, that the helm loſes moſt of its power, and ſhips have great difficulty to get in, even with the faireſt wind that can blow. The great noiſe occaſioned by the tumultuous motion of the waters in this place, made the ancients liken it to a voracious ſea-monſter perpetually roaring for its prey; and it has been repreſented by their authors as the moſt tremendous paſſage in the world. However, it certainly is not ſo formidable as the ancients repreſent it; and very probably, the violence of this motion, continued for ſo many ages, has by degrees worn ſmooth the rugged rocks and jutting ſhelves, that may have intercepted and confined the waters.

The breadth of the ſtraits too, in this place, I make no doubt, is conſiderably enlarged. Indeed, from the nature of things it muſt be ſo; the perpetual friction occaſioned by the current muſt wear away the bank on each ſide, and enlarge the bed of the water.

The veſſels in their paſſage are obliged to go as near as poſſible to the coaſt of Calabria, in order to avoid the ſuction occaſioned by the whirling of the waters in the vortex; by which means, when they come to the narroweſt and moſt rapid part of the ſtraits, between cape Pilorus and Scylla, they are in great daager of being carried on that rock. Hence is derived the proverb, ſtill applied to thoſe, who, in attempting to avoid one evil, fall into another;

> Thoſe who ſeek Charybidis to ſhun,
> Do often times on Scylla run.

There is a fine fountain of white marble on the quay, repreſenting Neptune holding Scylla and Charybdis chained, under the emblematical figures of two ſea-monſters, as repreſented by the poets.

While we continued here, we were one day conducted to ſeveral convents, where we were received by the nuns with great affability and politeneſs. We converſed with them for ſome hours through the grate, and found ſome of them by no means deficient, either in point of knowledge or ſprightlineſs; but none of them had ſincerity enough to acknowledge the

the unhappineſs of their ſituation. All pretended to be happy and contented, and declared they would not change their priſon for the moſt brilliant ſituation in life. However, ſome of them had a ſoft melancholy in their countenances that contradicted their words; and I am perſuaded, that, on a more intimate acquaintance, they would have told a very different ſtory. Several of them were extremely handſome; but, indeed, I think they always appear ſo; and I am very certain, from frequent experience, that there is no artificial ornament, or ſtudied embelliſhment whatever, that can produce half ſo ſtrong an effect, as the modeſt and ſimple attire of a pretty young nun, placed behind a double iron grate. To ſee an amiable, unaffected, and unadorned perſon, that might have been an honour and an ornament to ſociety, make a voluntary reſignation of her charms, and give up the world and all its pleaſures, for a life of faſting and mortification, it cannot fail to move our pity. There is another conſideration, which tends much to increaſe theſe feelings, and that is, our total incapacity ever to alter her ſituation. The pleaſure of relieving an object in diſtreſs, is the only refuge we have againſt the pain which the ſeeing of that objects occaſions; but here this is utterly denied us, and we feel with ſorrow, that we have nothing to beſtow but pity.

Reflections of this nature naturally depreſs a man's ſpirits, after converſing with amiable nuns. Indeed, it is hardly poſſible, to leave

the grate without a heavy heart. At laſt, we took our leave, expreſſing our happineſs in being admitted ſo near them; but at the ſame time deploring our miſery, in ſeeing them for ever removed at ſo unmeaſurable a diſtance from us. They were much pleaſed with our viſit, and begged we would repeat it every day during our ſtay at Meſſina; but this might have proved dangerous, and brought us into trouble.

On quitting this ſad ſcene of confinement, we obſerved a great concourſe of people on the top of a high hill, at ſome diſtance from the city. We were told, it was the celebration of a great feſtival in honour of St. Francis, and was worth our going to ſee. Accordingly we arrived juſt as the ſaint made his appearance. He was carried through the croud with vaſt ceremony, and received the homage of the people with a becoming dignity; after which he was again lodged in his chapel, where he performs a number of miracles every day, to all thoſe who have an equal quantity of money and faith. His miniſters, however, are a ſet of poor greaſy Capuchins, who indeed do not ſeem to have enriched themſelves in his ſervice. In general, he is but a ſhabby maſter, if we may judge by the tattered clothes of his ſervants; and St. Benedict, who does not pretend to half his ſanctity, beats him all to nothing. The people continued to dance, in ſoft Sicilian meaſures, till after ſun-ſet, when they retired. Many of the country girls were extremely

tremely handſome, and danced with a good grace; the young fellows were all in their Sunday clothes, and made a good aſſembly. The aſſembly-room was a fine green plain on the top of the hill.

One part of the ceremony appeared to us very odd, upon ſuch an occaſion. The whole court before the church was ſurrounded with a triple row of ſmall iron cannon, about ſix inches long. Theſe were charged to the muzzle, and rammed very hard; after which they were ſet cloſe to each other, and a train laid, that completed the communication through the whole number, which muſt have exceeded two thouſand. Fire was ſet to the train, and in two or three minutes the whole was diſcharged by a running fire, the reports following one another ſo quick, that it was impoſſible for the ear to ſeparate them. The effect was very grand; but it would have been nothing without the fine echo from the high mountains on each ſide of the ſtrait, which prolonged the ſound for ſome conſiderable time after the firing was finiſhed. The view from the top of this hill is beautiful beyond deſcription. The ſtraits appear like a vaſt majeſtic river, flowing ſlowly between two ridges of mountains, and opening by degrees from its narroweſt point, till it ſwells to the ſize of an ocean. Its banks are adorned with rich corn-fields, vineyards, orchards, towns, villages, and churches. The proſpect is terminated on each ſide by the tops of high mountains covered with wood.

Having

Having viewed the beautiful harbour of Meſſina, we found nothing much worthy of notice in the city. Some of the churches are handſome, and there are a few tolerable paintings. One ceremony, from the account they gave of it, I ſhould like much to have ſeen, and this was the celebration of the feaſt of the Vara; but it did not happen at the ſeaſon we were there. In order to add to the dignified appearance of the Virgin Mary on this occaſion, they have invented a very curious machine, which, we were told, repreſents heaven, or at leaſt a part of it. It is of a huge ſize, and moves through the ſtreet with vaſt pomp and ceremony. In the center is the principal figure, which repreſents the Virgin; and a little higher there are three others to denote the Trinity. Round theſe, there are a number of wheels, ſaid to be of a very curious conſtruction. Every wheel contains a legion of angels, according to their different degrees of precedency, ſeraphims, cherubims, and powers. Theſe are repreſented by a great number of beautiful little children, all glittering in clothes of gold and ſilver tiſſue, with wings of painted feathers fixed to their ſhoulders. When the machine be ſet in motion, all theſe wheels move round, and the different choirs of angels continue in a conſtant flutter, ſinging Hallelujahs round the Trinity and the Virgin during the whole of the proceſſion, and are ſaid to make a moſt beautiful appearance. This is all I could learn of this ſingular ſhow, neither were we admitted to

ſee

ſee the machine; conſcious, I ſuppoſe, of the ridicule of which it is ſuſceptible, they did not chooſe to unveil ſo ſacred an object to the eyes of heretics. This iſland has ever been famous for the celebration of its feaſts, even in ancient as well as modern times.

A Journey along the Coaſt of SICILY, *to the firſt Region of Mount* ÆTNA, *and the City of* CATANIA.

THE ſea-coaſt of Sicily is very rich; the ſides of ſome of the mountains are highly cultivated, and preſent the moſt agreeable aſpect that can be imagined; corn, wine, oil, and ſilk, all mixed together, and in the greateſt abundance. However, the cultivated part is but ſmall in proportion to what is lying waſte, and only ſerves to ſhew the great fertility of this iſland, were it peopled, and in induſtrious hands. The ſides of the road are covered with a variety of flowers and of flowering ſhrubs, ſome of them exceedingly beautiful. The incloſures are many of them fenced with hedges of the Indian fig, or prickly pear, as in Spain and Portugal; and our guides aſſured us, that in many of the parched ravines round Ætna, there are plenty of trees which produce both cinnamon and pepper;

pepper; not ſo ſtrong, they allow, as thoſe of the ſpice iſlands, but which are ſold to the merchants at a low price, by a ſet of banditti, who dreſs themſelves like hermits. Theſe ſpices are mixed with the true pepper and cinnamon from the Indies, and ſent over all Europe.

Nothing can be more romantic than the road from Meſſina to Taurominum. It lies the whole way along the coaſt, and commands the view of Calabria, and the ſouth part of the Straits, covered with chebecs, gallies, galliots, and a great number of fiſhing-boats. The view on the right-hand is confined by high mountains, on the very ſummits of which they have built ſeveral conſiderable towns and villages, which, with their churches and ſteeples, make a very pictureſque appearance. They have choſen this elevated ſituation, I ſuppoſe, with a double view: to protect them from their enemies, and alſo from the violent heat of the climate.

Between Taurominum and Meſſina, a little to the right, lie the mountains formerly called the Nebrodes; and likewiſe the mountain of Neptune, which is reckoned the higheſt of that chain. It is celebrated for a gulph or crater on its ſummit, from whence, at particular times, there iſſues an exceeding cold wind, with ſuch violence, that it is difficult to approach it.

Having quitted Taurominum, we ſoon entered the firſt region of mount Ætna; and here

here they have ſet up the ſtatue of a ſaint, for having prevented the lava from running up the mountain of Taurominum, and deſtroying the adjacent country; which the people think it certainly muſt have done, had it not been for this kind interpoſition; but he very wiſely, as well as humanely, conducted it to the ſea through a low valley.

Leaving the Catania road, we began to aſcend the mountain, in order to viſit the celebrated cheſtnut-tree, which, for ſome centuries paſt, has been looked upon as one of the greateſt wonders of Ætna. As we advanced in the firſt region of this volcano, we obſerved, that there had been eruptions of fire all over this country at a great diſtance from the ſummit or principal crater of the mountain. On our road to the village of Piemonte, I took notice of ſeveral very conſiderable craters, and ſtones of a large ſize, ſcattered all round, that had been diſcharged from them.

We found the people extremely curious, and inquiſitive to know our errand; and, on telling them our buſineſs, many of them offered to accompany us. Of theſe we choſe two; and after drinking our tea, which was a matter of great ſpeculation to the inhabitants, who had never before ſeen a breakfaſt of this kind, we began to clime the mountain.

After travelling five or ſix miles, the aſcent became a good deal more rapid, till we arrived at the beginning of the ſecond region, called by the natives the Woody Region; becauſe

cauſe it is compoſed of one vaſt foreſt, which extends all round the mountain. Part of this was deſtroyed by a very ſingular event, not later than the year 1775. During an erruption of the volcano, an immenſe torrent of boiling water iſſued, as is imagined, from the great crater of the mountain, and in an inſtant poured down to its baſe, overwhelming and ruining every thing it met with in its courſe. Our conductors ſhewed us the traces of this torrent, which are ſtill very viſible; but are now beginning to recover verdure and vegetation, which for ſome time appeared to have been loſt. The track it has left ſeems to be in general about a mile and a half broad. This erruption can only be accounted for, either by a ſtream of lava falling ſuddenly into one of the vallies of ſnow, that occupy the higher region of this mountain, and melting it down; or, what is perhaps ſtill more probable, that the melted ſnow, finding vaſt caverns and reſervoirs in the mountains, where it lodged for ſome time, till the exceſſive heat of the lava burſted the ſides of theſe caverns, and produced this phænomenon; which has been matter of great ſpeculation to the Sicilian philoſophers, and has employed the pens of ſeveral of them. The ſame thing happened in an irruption of Veſuvius laſt century, and in an inſtant ſwept away about five hundred people, who were marching in poſſeſſion at the foot of the mountain, to implore the mediation of a favourite ſaint.

We

We then paſſed through ſome beautiful groves of cork and ever-green oak, growing out of the lava, the ſoil having as yet hardly filled the crevices of that porous ſubſtance; and, not a very great way farther, I obſerved ſeveral little mountains that ſeemed to have been formed by a late eruption. I diſmounted from my mule, and climbed to the top of them all. They are ſeven in number, every one of them with a regular cup or crater on the top, and in ſome the great gulf that had diſcharged the burnt matter of which theſe little mountains were formed, is ſtill opened. I tumbled down ſtones into theſe gulfs, and heard the noiſe for a long time after.

It is not leſs than five or ſix miles from hence to the great cheſtnut-trees, through a foreſt growing out of the lava, in ſeveral places almoſt impaſſable. Of theſe trees there are many of an enormous ſize; but the Caſtagno de Cento Cavalli is by much the moſt celebrated. I have even found it marked in an old map of Sicily, publiſhed near an hundred years ago; and in all the maps of Ætna, and its environs, it makes a very conſpicuous figure. I own I was by no means ſtruck with its appearance, as it does not ſeem to be one tree, but a buſh of five large trees growing together. We complained to our guides of the impoſition, when they unanimouſly aſſured us, that by the univerſal tradition, and even teſtimony of the country, all theſe were once united in one ſtem; that their grand-fathers

remembered this, when it was looked upon as the glory of the foreſt, and viſited from all quarters; that for many years paſt it had been reduced to the venerable ruin we beheld. We began to examine it with more attention, and found that there was indeed an appearance as if theſe five trees had really been once united in one. The opening in the middle is at preſent prodigious, and it does indeed require faith to believe, that ſo vaſt a ſpace was once occupied by ſolid timber; but there is no appearance of bark on the inſide of any of the ſtumps, nor on the ſides that are oppoſite to one another. Two of us meaſured it ſeparately, and brought it exactly to 204 feet round. If this was once united in one ſolid ſtem, it muſt with juſtice indeed have been looked upon as a wonderful phænomenon in the vegetable world, and was deſervedly ſtiled the glory of the foreſt.

I have ſince been told by an ingenious eccleſiaſtic of this place, that he was at the expence of carrying up peaſants with tools to dig round this tree; and he aſſured me, upon his honour, that he found all theſe ſtems united below ground in one root. I alledged, that ſo extraordinary an object muſt have been mentioned by many of their writers. He told me that it had, and produced many examples. Carera begs to be excuſed from telling its dimenſions; but ſays, he is ſure there was wood enough in that one tree, to build a large palace; and Maſſa, one of their moſt eſteemed authors, ſays, he has ſeen ſolid oaks upwards of

forty

forty feet round; but adds, that the ſize of the cheſtnut-tree was beyond belief, the hollow of one of which, he ſays, contained three hundred ſheep; and thirty people on horſeback had often been in at a time. I ſhall not pretend to ſay, that this is the ſame tree he means, or whether it ever was one tree or not. However, there are many others that are well deſerving the curioſity of travellers. One of theſe, about a mile and a half higher on the mountain, riſes from one ſolid ſtem to a conſiderable height, after which it branches out, and is a much finer object than the other. I meaſured it about two feet from the ground, and found it ſeventy-ſix feet round. Theſe grow on a thick rich ſoil, formed originally, I ſuppoſe, of aſhes thrown out by the mountain.

The vaſt quantity of nitre contained in the aſhes of Ætna, probably contributed greatly to increaſe the luxuriance of this vegetation; and the air too, ſtrongly impregnated with it from the ſmoke of the volcano, muſt create a conſtant ſupply of this ſalt, termed by ſome, not without reaſon, the food of vegetables. There are the ruins of a houſe in the inſide of the great cheſtnut-tree, which had been built for holding the fruit it bears, which is ſtill conſiderable. Here we dined with an excellent appetite, and being convinced, that it was in vain to attempt getting to the top of the mountain on that ſide, we began to deſcend. After a very fatiguing journey, we arrived about ſun-ſet at Jaci Reale, where, with ſome difficulty we procured a lodging.

The city of Jaci, or Aci, and indeed all the towns on this coaſt, are founded on immenſe rocks of lava, heaped one above another, in ſome places to an amazing height; for it appears that theſe flaming torrents, as ſoon as they arrived at the ſea, were hardened into rock, which, not yielding any longer to the preſſure of the liquid fire behind, and the melted matter continuing to accumulate, formed a dam of fire, which in a ſhort time, run over the ſolid front, pouring a ſecond torrent into the ocean. This was immediately conſolidated, and ſucceeded by a third, and ſo on.

The road from Jaci to Catania is entirely over lava, and conſequently very fatiguing and troubleſome. Within a few miles of that place, we counted eight mountains formed by eruptions, with every one its crater, from whence the burning matter was diſcharged. Some of theſe are very high, and of a great compaſs. It evidently appears, that the eruptions of mount Ætna have formed the whole of this coaſt, and in many places have driven back the ſea for ſeveral miles from its ancient boundaries. The account the Sicilian authors give of the conflict between theſe two adverſe elements is truly tremendous, and in relating it they ſeem to have been ſhaken with horror. Conceive the front of a torrent of fire, ten miles in breadth, and heaped up to a enormous height, rolling down the mountain, and pouring its flame into the ocean! The noiſe, they aſſured us, is infinitely more dreadful than

than the loudeſt thunder, and is heard through the whole country to an immenſe diſtance. The water ſeemed to retire and diminiſh before the fire, and to confeſs its ſuperiority, yielding up its poſſeſſions, and contracting its banks, to make room for its imperious maſter. The clouds of ſalt vapour darken the face of the ſun, covering up this ſcene under a veil of horror and of night, and laying waſte every field and vineyard in theſe regions of the iſland. All the fiſh on the coaſt are deſtroyed; the colour of the ſea itſelf is changed, and the tranſparency of its waters loſt for many months after theſe terrible commotions.

Catania has experienced moſt ſingular calamities, and ſuch as ever will appear fabulous. It is ſituated immediately at the foot of this great volcano, and has been ſeveral times deſtroyed by it. This, indeed, is not extraordinary, as it would have been much more ſo had it eſcaped; but what I ſhall now relate, is a ſingularity that probably never happened to any other city. It was always in great want of a port, till by an eruption in the ſixteenth century, (and, no doubt, by the interpoſition of St. Agatha) what was denied them by Nature, they received from the generoſity of the mountain. A ſtream of lava, running into the ſea, formed a mole, which no expence could have procured them. This laſted for ſome time a ſafe and commodious harbour; till at laſt, by a ſubſequent eruption, it was entirely filled up and demoliſhed; ſo that probably the poor ſaint much ſunk in her credit;

for, at this unfortunate period, her miraculous veil, looked upon as the greateſt treaſure of Catania, and eſteemed an infallible remedy againſt earthquakes and volcanoes, ſeems to have loſt its virtues. The torrent burſt over the walls, ſweeping away the images of every ſaint that were placed there to oppoſe it; and, laying waſte great part of this beautiful city, poured into the ſea. However, the people ſay, that at that time they had given their ſaint very juſt provocation; but that ſhe has long ago been reconciled to them, and has promiſed never to ſuffer the mountain to get the better of them for the future. Many of them are ſo thoroughly convinced of this, (for they are extremely ſuperſtitious) that I really believe, if the lava were at their walls, they would not be at the pains to remove their effects. Neither is it the veil of St. Agatha alone, that they think poſſeſſed of this wonderful dominion over the mountain; but every thing which has touched that ſacred piece of attire, they ſuppoſe is impregnated, in a leſs degree, with the ſame miraculous properties. Thus there are a number of little bits of cotton and linen fixed to the veil, which, after being bleſſed by the biſhop, are ſuppoſed to acquire power enough to ſave any perſon's houſe or garden; and whenever this expedient has failed, it is always aſcribed to the want of faith of the perſon, not to any want of efficacy in the veil.

Our curioſity carried us to examine where the lava had ſcaled the walls of Catania, which

which muſt have been a noble though dreadful ſight. The walls are near ſixty feet high, and of a great ſtrength, otherwiſe they muſt have been borne down by the force of the flaming matter which roſe over this height, and ſeems to have mounted conſiderably above the top of the wall before it made its entry; but at laſt it came down, ſweeping before it every ſaint in the calendar, who were drawn up in order of battle on purpoſe to oppoſe its paſſage; and, marching on in triumph, annihilated, in a manner, every object that dared to oppoſe it.

Catania is conſidered as the third city in the kingdom; though, ſince Meſſina was deſtroyed by the plague, it may well be conſidered as the ſecond. It contains upwards of thirty thouſand inhabitants, has an univerſity, the only one in the iſland, and is a biſhopric. The biſhop's revenues are conſiderable, and ariſe principally from the ſale of ſnow on mount Ætna; one ſmall portion of which, lying on the north of the mountain, is ſaid to bring him upwards of a thouſand a year; as Ætna furniſhes ſnow and ice, not only to the whole iſland of Sicily, but likewiſe to Malta, and a great part of Italy, and makes a very conſiderable branch of commerce; for even the peaſants, in theſe hot countries, regale themſelves with ices during the ſummer heats; and there is no entertainment given by the nobility, of which theſe do not always make a conſiderable part. A famine of ſnow, they themſelves ſay, would be more grievous than

a famine of either corn or wine. It is a common obſervation among them, that without the ſnows of mount Ætna their iſlands could not be inhabited, ſo eſſential has this article of luxury become to them. Ætna not only keeps them cool in ſummer, but likewiſe keeps them warm in winter, the fuel for the greateſt part of the iſland being carried from the immenſe and inexhauſtible foreſt of this volcano, and conſtitutes alſo a very large branch of commerce. But this amazing mountain perpetually carries me away from my ſubject; I was ſpeaking of Catania. What of it was ſpared by the eruption of 1669, was totally ruined by the fatal earthquake of 1693, when the greateſt part of its inhabitants were buried under the walls of their houſes and churches; yet, after ſuch repeated and ſuch diſmal diſaſters, ſo ſtrange is their infatuation, that they never could be prevailed upon to change their ſituation. The whole city was ſoon rebuilt, after a new and an elegant plan, and is now much handſomer than ever. There is ſcarce any doubt, that, in ſome future commotion of the mountain, it will be again laid in aſhes; but, at preſent, they are in perfect ſecurity, as the Virgin and St. Agatha have both engaged to protect them, and under their banner they hold Ætna, and all the demons it contains, at defiance.

A Viſit to the Summit of Mount ÆTNA.

THE evening before we ſet out on our expedition was very delightful, and by the light of the ſtars we could obſerve the ſmoke rolling down the ſides of the mountain like a vaſt torrent. Our guide told us, that this was a ſure indication of the violence of the cold in theſe exalted regions of the atmoſphere, which condenſes the vapour, and makes it fall down, the moment it iſſues out of the crater. He adviſed us, by all means, to provide plenty of liquors, warm fur cloaks, and hatchets to cut wood, as we ſhould probably be obliged to paſs the night in the open air, in a climate, he aſſured us, as cold as that of Greenland. This appeared to us very ſingular, as at that time we were melting with heat in thin ſuits of taffeta.

As ſoon as day-break appeared, on the 27th of May, we ſet off to viſit Ætna, that venerable and reſpectable father of mountains. His baſe and his immenſe declivities, are covered over with a numerous progeny of his own, as every new eruption produces a new mountain; and perhaps, by the number of theſe, better than by any other method, the number of eruptions, and the age of Ætna itſelf, might be aſcertained. The whole mountain is divided into three diſtinct regions, called the Fertile Region, the Woody Region, and the Barren Region. Theſe three are as different

ferent both in climate and productions, as the three zones of the earth; and perhaps, with equal propriety, might have been ſtiled the Torrid, the Temperate, and the Frigid zone. The firſt region ſurrounds the foot of the mountain, and conſtitutes the moſt fertile country in the world on all ſides of it, to the extent of about fourteen or fifteen miles, where the woody region begins. It is compoſed almoſt entirely of lava, which, after a number of ages, is at laſt converted into the moſt fertile ſoil imaginable.

At Catania the harveſt was entirely over, and the heats were inſupportable; but at Nicoloſi, which is twelve miles up the mountain, though the elevation probably did not exceed three thouſand feet, the heats were moderate, and in many plaees the corn was green. The road for theſe twelve miles is the worſt I ever travelled, entirely over old lavas and the mouths of extinguiſhed volcanoes, now converted into corn-fields, vineyards, and orchards. The fruit of this region is reckoned the fineſt in Sicily, particularly the figs, of which they have a great variety.

The lavas that form this region of the mountain, take their riſe from an infinite number of the moſt beautiful little mountains on earth, which are every where ſcattered on the immenſe declivity of Ætna. Theſe are all of a regular figure, either that of a cone, or a ſemiſphere; and all but a very few are covered with beautiful trees, and the richeſt verdure.

verdure. Every eruption generally forms one of theſe mountains. As the great crater of Ætna itſelf is raiſed to ſuch an enormous height above the lower regions of the mountain, it is not poſſible, that the internal fire raging for a vent, even round the baſe, and no doubt vaſtly below it, ſhould be carried to the height of twelve or thirteen thouſand feet, for probably ſo high is the ſummit of Ætna. It has therefore generally happened, that after ſhaking the mountain and its neighbourhood for ſome time, it at laſt burſts open its ſides, and this is called an eruption. At firſt, it only ſends forth a thick ſmoke and ſhowers of aſhes, that lay waſte the adjacent country. Theſe are ſoon followed by red-hot ſtones, and rocks of a great ſize, thrown to an immenſe height in the air. The fall of theſe ſtones, together with the quantities of aſhes diſcharged at the ſame time, at laſt form the ſpherical and conical mountains I have mentioned. Sometimes this proceſs is finiſhed in the courſe of a few days, and ſome times it laſts for months, which was the caſe in the great eruption of 1669. In that caſe, the mountain formed is of a greater ſize; ſome of them are not leſs than ſeven or eight miles round, and upwards of a thouſand feet in perpendicular height; others are not more than two or three miles round, and three or four hundred feet high.

In about an hour and a half's travelling, after we had left Nicoloſi, over barren aſhes and lava, we arrived on the confines of the temperate region.

region. As ſoon as we entered theſe delightful foreſts, we ſeemed to have got into another world. The air, which before was ſultry and hot, was now cool and refreſhing, and every breeze was loaded with a thouſand perfumes, the whole ground being covered over with the richeſt aromatic plants. Many parts of this region are ſurely the moſt heavenly ſpots upon earth; and if Ætna reſemble the infernal regions within, it may with equal juſtice be ſaid to reſemble paradiſe without. It is indeed a curious conſideration, that this mountain ſhould reunite every beauty and every horror, and, in ſhort, all the moſt oppoſite and diſſimular objects in nature. Here you obſerve a gulf, that formerly threw out torrents of fire, now covered with the moſt luxuriant vegetation, and from an object of terror, become one of delight. Here you gather the moſt delicious fruits, riſing from what was but lately a black and barren rock. Here the ground is covered with every flower, and we wander over theſe beauties, and contemplate this wilderneſs of ſweets, without conſidering that a kind of hell, with all its terrors, is immediately under our feet, and that but a few yards ſeparate us from lakes of liquid fire and brimſtone. But our aſtoniſhment ſtill increaſes, on caſting our eyes on the higher regions of the mountain. There we behold, in perpetual union, the two elements that are at perpetual war: an immenſe gulf of fire, for ever exiſting in the midſt of ſnows which it has not power to melt; and immenſe

fields of ſnow and ice for ever ſurrounding the gulf of fire, which they have not power to extinguiſh.

The woody region of Ætna aſcends for about eight or nine miles, and forms a zone or girdle of the brighteſt green, all round the mountain. This night we paſſed through little more than the half of it, arriving ſome time before ſun-ſet at our lodgings, which was no other than a large cave, formed by one of the moſt ancient and venerable lavas. It was called the Goats Cavern, becauſe frequented by thoſe animals, who take refuge there in bad weather. Here we were delighted with the contemplation of many grave and beautiful objects; the proſpect on all ſides was immenſe, and we ſeemed to be lifted up from the earth, and to have gotten into a new world. One cavern was ſurrounded by the moſt ſtately and majeſtic oaks, of the dry leaves of which we made very comfortable beds; and with our hatchets, which we had brought on purpoſe, we cut down great branches, and, in a ſhort time, had a fire large enough to roaſt an ox. In one end of the cave we found a quantity of ſnow, which ſeemed to be ſent there on purpoſe for us, as there was no water to be found. With this we filled our tea-kettle, as tea, and bread and butter, was the only ſupper we had provided; and probably, the beſt one to prevent us from being overcome by ſleep or fatigue.

At a ſmall diſtance from this cavern, are two of the moſt beautiful mountains of all

that number that ſpring from Ætna. I mounted one of our beſt mules, and with a good deal of difficulty arrived at the ſummit of the higheſt of them, juſt a little before ſunſet. The proſpect of Sicily, with the ſurrounding ſea, and all its iſlands, was wonderfully noble. The whole courſe of the river Semetus, the ruins of Hybla, and ſeveral other ancient towns; the rich corn-fields and vineyards on the lower region of the mountain, and the amazing number of beautiful mountains below, made a delightful ſcene. The hollow crater of theſe two mountains are each of them conſiderably larger than that of Veſuvius. They are now filled with ſtately oaks, and covered to a great depth with the richeſt ſoil. I obſerved, that this region of Ætna, like the former, was compoſed of lava; but this is now covered ſo deep with earth, that it is no where to be ſeen, but in the beds of the torrents. In many of theſe it is worn down by the water to the depth of fifty or ſixty feet, and in one of them conſiderably more.

As ſoon as night approached, we retired to our cave, and took poſſeſſion of our bed of leaves. Our reſt, however, was ſomewhat diſturbed by the noiſe of a mountain that lay a good way off on our right. It diſcharged quantities of ſmoke, and made ſeveral exploſions like cannon at a diſtance; but, what is ſingular, we could obſerve no appearance of fire. Though this mountain was formed by an eruption four years before our being there,

yet

yet the fire was not extinguiſhed, nor was the lava by any means cold. This lava ſpent its fury on a beautiful foreſt, which it laid waſte to the extent of a great many miles. In many places it run into gullies of a great depth, which it filled up to the height, we were told, of two hundred feet. It is in theſe places where it retains the greateſt heat. We ſcrambled up this lava, and went a conſiderable way over its ſurface, which appeared perfectly cold; but it is certain, that in many places it ſtill emits volumes of ſmoke, particularly after rain; and the people told us, what I can readily believe, that this will continue to be the caſe for ſome years. The ſurface indeed ſoon becomes black and hard, and incloſes the liquid fire within, in a kind of ſolid box, ſome hundreds of feet thick, and of a great extent, excluding all impreſſions from the external air or from the weather. Thus I have ſeen, many months after eruptions of mount Veſuvius, a bed of lava, though only a few feet thick, has continued red hot in the center long after the ſurface was cold; and a ſtick thruſt into its crevices inſtantly took fire, although there was no perceptible external heat.

After getting a comfortable nap on our bed of leaves, we awoke about eleven o'clock; and melting down a ſufficient quantity of ſnow, we boiled our tea-kettle, and made a hearty meal, to prepare us for the remaining part of our expedition. We were nine in number, and our principal guide now began

to diſplay his great knowledge of the mountain, and we followed him with implicit confidence. He conducted us over "Antres vaſt, and deſerts wild," where ſcarce human foot had ever trodden. Sometimes through gloomy foreſts, which by day-light were delightful, but now, from the univerſal darkneſs, the ruſtling of the trees, the heavy dull bellowing of the mountain, and the vaſt expanſe of ocean ſtretched at an immenſe diſtance below us, inſpired a kind of awful horror. Sometimes we found ourſelves aſcending great rocks of lava, where, if our mules ſhould make but a falſe ſtep, we might be thrown headlong over the precipice. However, by the aſſiſtance of our guide, we overcame all theſe difficulties; and he managed matters ſo well, that in the ſpace of two hours, we had got above the regions of vegetation, and had left the foreſt of Ætna far behind. Theſe now appeared like a dark and gloomy gulph below us, that ſurrounded the mountain. The proſpect before us was of a very different nature; we beheld an expanſe of ſnow and ice that alarmed us exceedingly, and almoſt ſtaggard our reſolution. In the center of this, but ſtill at a great diſtance, we deſcried the high ſummit of the mountain, rearing its tremendous head, and vomiting out torrents of ſmoke. It indeed appeared altogether inacceſſible, from the vaſt extent of the fields of ſnow and ice that ſurrounded it, and our diffidence was ſtill increaſed by the ſentiments of our guide. He told us, it often

ten happened, that the ſurface of the mountain being hot below, melted the ſnow in particular places, and formed pools of water, where it was impoſſible to foreſee our danger; that it likewiſe happened, that the ſurface of the water, as well as the ſnow, was ſometimes covered with black aſhes, that rendered it exceedingly deceitful; that, however, if we thought proper, he would lead us on with as much caution as poſſible. Accordingly, after holding a council of war, we detached our cavalry to the foreſt below, and prepared to climb the ſnows. Our guide, after taking a good draught of brandy, deſired us to be of good cheer, telling us we had plenty of time, and might make as many reſts as we pleaſed; that the ſnow would be little more than ſeven miles, and that we certainly ſhould be able to paſs it before ſun-riſe. Accordingly, taking each of us a comfortable glaſs, which ſoon removed every objection, we proceeded on our expedition.

After incredible labour and fatigue, but at the ſame time mixed with a great deal of pleaſure, we arrived before the dawn of the day at the ruins of an ancient ſtructure, ſuppoſed to have been built by the philoſopher Empedocles, who took up his habitation here, the better to ſtudy the nature of mount Ætna. Here we reſted ourſelves for ſome time, and had leiſure to pay our adorations in a ſilent contemplation of the ſublime objects of nature. The ſky was clear, and the immenſe vault of the heavens appeared in awful ma-

jeſty and ſplendour. We found ourſelves more ſtruck with veneration than below, and at firſt were at a loſs to know the cauſe, till we obſerved with aſtoniſhment, that the number of ſtars ſeemed to be infinitely increaſed, and the light of each of them appeared brighter than uſual. The whiteneſs of the Milky Way was like a pure flame that ſhot acroſs the heavens; and with the naked eye, we could obſerve cluſters of ſtars that were inviſible in the regions below. We did not at firſt attend to the cauſe, nor recollect that we had now paſſed through ten or twelve thouſand feet of groſs vapour, that blunts and confuſes every ray, before it reaches the ſurface of the earth.

Having for ſome time feaſted our eyes with the view of theſe objects, we proceeded on our expedition, and ſoon after arrived at the foot of the gerat crater of the mountain. This is of an exact conical figure, and riſes equally on all ſides. It is compoſed ſolely of aſhes and other burnt materials, diſcharged from the mouth of the burnt volcano, which is in its center. This conical mountain is of a very great ſize, as its circumference cannot be leſs than ten miles. Here we took another reſt, as the greateſt part of our fatigue ſtill remained. We found this mountain exceſſively ſteep; and although it had appeared black, yet it was likewiſe covered with ſnow. The ſurface, luckily for us, was ſpread over with a pretty thick layer of aſhes, thrown out from the crater; and, had it not been for this, we never

never ſhould have been able to have got to the top, as the ſnow was every where frozen hard and ſolid, the air in this region being intenſely cold and ſevere.

After climbing about an hour, we arrived at a place where there was no ſnow, and where a warm and comfortable vapour iſſued from the mountain, which induced us to make another halt. From this ſpot, it was only about three hundred yards to the higheſt ſummit of the mountain, where we arrived in full time to ſee the moſt wonderful and moſt ſublime ſight in nature. But here deſcription muſt ever fall ſhort; for no imagination has dared to form an idea of ſo glorious and ſo magnificent a ſcene; neither is there, on the ſurface of this globe, any one point that unites ſo many awful and ſublime objects. The immenſe elevation from the ſurface of the earth, drawn as it were to a ſingle point, without any neighbouring mountain for the ſenſes and imagination to reſt upon, and recover from their aſtoniſhment in their way down to the world; this point or pinnacle, raiſed on the brink of a bottomleſs gulf, as old as the world, often diſcharging rivers of fire, and throwing out burning rocks, with a noiſe that ſhakes the whole iſland; add to this, the unbounded extent of the proſpect, comprehending the greateſt diverſity and the moſt beautiful ſcenery in nature, with the riſing ſun, advancing in the eaſt, to illuminate the wondrous ſcene!

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By degrees the whole atmoſphere kindled up, and ſhewed dimly and faintly the boundleſs proſpect around. Both ſea and land looked dark and confuſed, as if only emerging from their original chaos; and light and darkneſs ſeemed ſtill undivided, till the morning, by degrees advancing, completed the ſeparation. The ſtars were extinguiſhed, and the ſhades diſappeared. The foreſts, which but now ſeemed black and bottomleſs gulfs, from whence no ray was reflected to ſhew their form or colours, appeared a new creation riſing to the ſight, catching life and beauty from every increaſing beam. The ſcene ſtill enlarged, and the horizon ſeemed to widen and expand itſelf on all ſides, till the ſun, like the great Creator, appeared in the eaſt, and with his plaſtic ray completed the mighty ſcene. All appeared enchantment, and it was with difficulty we could believe we were ſtill on earth. The body of the ſun was ſeen riſing from the ocean, immenſe tracks of both ſea and land intervening; the iſlands of Lipari, Panari, Alicudi, Strombolo, and Volcano, with their ſmoking ſummits, appeared under our feet, and we looked down on the whole of Sicily as on a map, and could trace every river through all its winding, from its ſource to its mouth. The view was abſolutely boundleſs on every ſide, nor was there any one object, within the circle of viſion, to interrupt it, ſo that the ſight was every where loſt in the immenſity. The circumference

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of the viſible horizon on the top of Ætna cannot be leſs than two thouſand miles. At Malta, which is near two hundred miles diſtant, they perceive all the eruptions from the ſecond region, and that iſland is often diſcovered from about one half the elevation of the mountain; ſo that, at the whole elevation, the horizon muſt extend to near double that diſtance, or four hundred miles, which makes eight hundred for the diameter of the circle, and two thouſand four hundred for the circumference. But this is by much too vaſt for our ſenſes, not intended to graſp ſo boundleſs a ſcene.

The frigid region of Ætna is the firſt object that calls our attention. It is marked out by a circle of ſnow and ice, which extends on all ſides to the diſtance of about eight miles. In the center of this circle, the great crater of the mountain rears its burning head; and the regions of intenſe cold, and of intenſe heat, ſeem for ever to be united in the ſame point. The frigid region is immediatcly ſucceeded by the woody region, which forms a circle or girdle of the moſt beautiful green that ſurrounds the mountain on all ſides, and is certainly one of the moſt delightful ſpots on earth. This preſents a remarkable contraſt with the deſart or frigid region. It is not ſmooth and even, like the greater part of the deſert region, but is finely variegated by an infinite number of thoſe beautiful little mountains that have been formed by the different eruptions of Ætna. All theſe have now acquired a wonderful degree

gree of fertility, except a very few that are but newly formed, that is, within theſe five or ſix hundred years; for it certainly requires many hundreds of years to bring them to their greateſt degree of perfection.

The circumference of this woody zone is not leſs than ſeventy or eighty miles, and is every where ſucceeded by the vineyards, orchards, and corn-fields, that compoſe the lower or fertile region. This laſt zone is much broader than the others, and extends on all ſides to the foot of the mountains. Its whole circumference is computed at one hundred and eighty-three miles. It is likewiſe covered with a number of little conical and ſpherical mountains, and exhibits a wonderful variety of forms and colours, making a delightful contraſt with the other two regions.

We had now time to examine a fourth region of this wonderful mountain, very different indeed from the others, and productive of very different ſenſations, but which has undoubtedly given birth to all the reſt, I mean the region of fire. The preſent crater of this immenſe volcano is a circle of about three miles and a half in circumference. It goes ſhelving down on each ſide, and forms a regular hollow like a vaſt amphitheatre. From many places of this ſpace, iſſue volumes of ſulphureous ſmoke, which being much heavier than the circumambient air, inſtead of riſing in it, as ſmoke generally does, immediately on its getting out of the crater, rolls down the ſide of the mountain like a torrent,

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till coming to that part of the atmoſphere which is of the ſame gravity with itſelf, it ſhoots off horizontally, and forms a large track in the air, according to the direction of the wind. The crater is ſo hot, that it is very dangerous, if not impoſſible, to go down into it; beſides, the ſmoke is very incommodious, and, in many places, the ſurface is ſo ſoft, that there have been inſtances of people ſinking down in it, and paying for their temerity with their lives. Near the center of the crater is the great mouth of the volcano; that tremendous gulf ſo celebrated in all ages, looked upon as the terror and ſcourge both of this and another life; and equally uſeful to ancient poets, or to modern divines, when the Muſe or when the Spirit inſpires. We beheld it with awe and with horror, and were not ſurpriſed that it had been conſidered as the place of the damned. When we reflect on the immenſity of its depth; the vaſt cells and caverns whence ſo many lavas have iſſued; the force of its internal fire, to raiſe up thoſe lavas to ſo vaſt a height, to ſupport it as it were in the air, and even force it over the very ſummit of the crater, with all the dreadful accompanyments; the boiling of the matter, the ſhaking of the mountain, the exploſion of flaming rocks; when we reflect on all theſe things we muſt allow, that the moſt enthuſiaſtic imagination, in the midſt of all its terrors, hardly ever formed an idea of a hell more dreadful.

It was with a mixture of both pleaſure and pain, that we quitted this awful ſcene; but the wind had riſen very high, and clouds began to gather round the mountain. We deſcended, and returned to our cave, where I had an excellent diſh of tea, the moſt refreſhing and agreeable I ever drank in my life.

We quitted the ſummit of the mountain about ſix o'clock in the morning, and it was eight at night before we reached Catania. The change of the climate as we deſcended was rapid; from the regions of the moſt rigid winter, we ſoon arrived at thoſe of the moſt delightful ſpring. On firſt entering the foreſt, the trees were ſtill bear as in December, and not a ſingle leaf to be ſeen; but, after we had deſcended a few miles, we found ourſelves in the mildeſt and the ſofteſt of climates; the trees in full verdure, and the fields covered with all the flowers of the ſummer. But as ſoon as we got out of the woods, and entered the torrid zone, we found the heats altogether inſupportable, and ſuffered dreadfully from them before we reached the city.

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